

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG
BREMER KIDNAPPING**

FILE NUMBER: 7-576

SECTION : 276



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

FILE NUMBER 7-576

SECTION NUMBER 276

SERIALS 15406 - 15472

TOTAL PAGES 201

PAGES RELEASED 201

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED b7c

IARNOLD: WITH THE ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION OF ALVIN KARPIS,
 2 J. EDGAR HOOVER AND THE SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE F.B.I.
 3 WROTE FINIS TO THE VIOLENT HISTORY OF THE BARKER-KARPIS
 4 GANG. THE END RESULT..TWENTY-FIVE CONVICTIONS, THREE
 5 PERSONS KILLED RESISTING ARREST, THREE MORE KILLED BY
 6 THEIR OWN ASSOCIATES. -- WE ASKED THE DIRECTOR IF HE
 7 HAD ANY COMMENT TO ADD TO TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION. HE
 8 ASKED US TO SAY THIS...THAT THERE ISN'T ONE HERO IN THE
 9 WAR AGAINST CRIME...BUT MANY....THOUSANDS OF LAW
 10 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT....
 11 AND MORE THOUSANDS OF COURAGEOUS AND ALERT PRIVATE
 12 CITIZENS WITHOUT WHOSE CO-OPERATION NO LAW ENFORCEMENT
 13 AGENCY COULD FUNCTION. IN THE WORDS OF MR. HOOVER....
 14 THE WAR AGAINST CRIME IS TOTAL WAR. WINNING IT IS
 15 EVERYBODY'S JOB.

RS

*Indubitably we should
 youths of great
 know Mr. Bremer
 is alive today
 same Mr. B can
 testify to the
 brilliant abduction
 work of the Japs*

1 HOOVER; -- Allright gentlemen, report at 4:00. *well get the power tainer*
(CONT'D) *for the*
2 ~~issuance of arms and ammunition.~~ *at 4:00*
3 MUSIC: QUICK BUILDING BRIDGE...OUT FOR:
4
5 SOUND: TRAFFIC NOISE ON BIG BOULEVARD. OFF...CAR MOTOR UNDER:
6 TOLSON: Two more blocks, sir. The other groups are already in
7 position.
8 SOUND: OLD HORSE CLOP-CLOPPING ON SUDDENLY...SQUEAL OF BRAKES.
9 TOLSON: Oh, no! ...Cut right in front of us.
10 VENDOR: (OFF) (STREET CHANT) Shrimp-ees...Crab-ees..Devil
11 Crab-ees.
12 SOUND: CAR SLOWED TO CRAWL...FAST TRAFFIC OFF...HORSE OFF
13 VENDOR: (OFF) My crabs are new an' brown...
14 I sell 'em all aroun' (CONTINUE OFF MIKE)
15 TOLSON: (ON MIKE) Too much When you are hungry an' blue
16 traffic, sir. We can't Wait for de crab man to pass
17 get around him. through, Crab-ees...Devel
18 HOOVER: Maybe he'll turn off Crab-ees.
19 at the next corner.
20 TOLSON: (AFTER PAUSE) No. Still with us.
21 SOUND: HORSE CLOP-CLOP...EVEN SLOWER
22 VENDOR: Crab-ees...Devil crab-eeees.
23 TOLSON: I thought white horses were supposed to bring luck.
24 HOOVER: Yes...to Karpis. It's 5:02:15 right now.
25 TOLSON: I can try forcing him onto the sidewalk.
26 HOOVER: Attract too much attention. We'll just have to stick it
27 out.
28 SOUND: THE HORSE...STILL CLOP-CLOPPING.
29 VENDOR: (OFF) ~~Crab-ees...Devil Crab-ees.~~
30 TOLSON: Look there...coming out of the apartment house....

1 HOOVER: Yes. -- Ye that's Karpis, all right. Come on.
2 SOUND: FAST PATTERN...SQUEAL OF BRAKES...CAR DOOR OPENS....
3 RUNNING FOOTSTEPS....HORSE FADING OFF UNDER:
4 HOOVER: All right, Karpis. Federal Officers. You're under arrest.
5 KARPIS: What the -- hey!
6 SOUND: HANDCUFFS SNAPPED INTO PLACE
7 KARPIS: Well, I be a -- it's Mr. G-Man in person. What d'ya know.
8 SOUND: HORSE FADE OFF...CLOP-CLOPPING
9 VENDOR: (WAY OFF) ~~Crab-ees...~~ Devil Crab-ees.
10 HOOVER: It's my duty to warn you that --
11 KARPIS: Yeah...yeah, G-Man, I know. Anything I say'll help me
12 fry. (THIN SMILE) ~~It's kinda too bad though.~~
13 HOOVER: ~~Think so, Karpis?~~
14 KARPIS: If you'd shown up just two minutes sooner, I coulda
15 welcomed you in style....fireworks'n everything.
16 BRYANT: (STEP ON) That's right, sir. I just checked the
17 apartment. It's practically an arsenal.
18 TOLSON: (SMILES) Guess it's true after all, sir -- about white
19 horses, I mean.
20 KARPIS: Huh?
21 HOOVER: Come on, Karpis. Let's go.
22 MUSIC: FIGURE ... BRIDGE TO:
23
24

RS

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: March 9, 1955

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: APPREHENSION OF ALVIN KARPIS

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

In accord with your request to get the facts, once and for all, concerning the apprehension of Alvin Karpis, I wish to advise we have located in the Bremer Kidnaping files a memorandum dated May 2, 1936, prepared by T. D. Quinn based on a telephone call he received from the Director at 5:25 A.M. on May 2, 1936, concerning the apprehension of Alvin Karpis, Fred Hunter and Connie Morris in New Orleans at about 5:15 P.M. on the previous day, namely, May 1, 1936. A Photostat of this memorandum is attached.

We have also located in the Bremer Kidnaping files a copy of the chart made prior to the raid reflecting the raid plans. This chart showed the hide-out of Karpis and Hunter and the names of the Agents to be used on the raid and the various positions they were to take in surrounding the hide-out.

The Director raised the question, ^{recently} as to whether Jefferson Davis Street crossed Canal Street at the point of the hide-out as indicated in a script presented on the "Hallmark Hall of Fame" giving incidents concerning the Karpis arrest. According to the raid plan chart, the apartment of Fred Hunter and Connie Morris which had served as a hide-out for Karpis was located at the corner of "Jeff Davis Pkwy" and Canal Street. It was catty-cornered from a drug store on Canal Street and the Jeff Davis Parkway had trees and grass in the center of the street.

The Director also stated that the horse which interfered with the proposed raid plans was actually a horse of a policeman. The script merely refers to this part of the happenings as an "OLD HORSE CLOP-CLOPPING ON SUDDENLY" and the script in its sound effects gives the clomp-clomp of the horse on several occasions thereafter. Mr. Quinn's memorandum, referred to above, indicates the Director told him that "a policeman came along the boulevard on a horse, and the raid had to be delayed until he had passed."

The apprehension of Alvin Karpis is set forth in the Director's book, "Persons in Hiding" on page 71 and 72. Regarding the incident of the horse, the book contains the following information which could not be verified in the Bremer Kidnaping files:

Attachments (3)

1357
BMS:blw B lw
MAR 25 1955

RECORDED - 837-516-15407
7-516
u pms
355

March 9, 1955

"The signal for the beginning of the raid had been delayed. This was to take place on a boulevard crowded with swift-moving traffic, leaving only a narrow lane at one side. And just at the moment when we had planned to start toward the house in our automobiles, thus beginning the raid, a man on an old white horse had sauntered into that lane beside the through traffic.

"We could not dislodge him without creating attention. We could not pass him--all other space was jammed with fast-moving cars. So we must wait until the jogging man on the old white horse went slowly down the street--clop-clop--clop-clop--clop-clop....

"At last he was gone. The raiding party moved forward, just in time to see two men leave the apartment house and enter a car. It was Karpis and a pal. We closed in swiftly. The wrists of Alvin Karpis were handcuffed before he could even whirl for his gun. Those few minutes, occupied by a man on an old white horse, had meant the difference between a bloodless capture and what might have been a desperate battle, for there was a small arsenal in the apartment which these two men had just vacated."

RECOMMENDATION: (1) It is recommended that a copy of this memorandum, along with a Photostat of Mr. Quinn's memorandum of May 2, 1936, and a Photostat of the proposed raid plans be filed in the Bureau's Library in the Alvin Karpis folder for future reference.

(2) It is also recommended that a card be prepared in the Bureau's Library on Alvin Karpis indicating that the true version of the raid is contained in the attachments to this memorandum.

OR
Hm

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Airtel

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI, CHICAGO (7-82) APRIL 6, 1955

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID. BEN MEEKER, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER, ADVISED
ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OPERATED SAWYER IN MARCH IN UNSUCCESSFUL
EFFORT TO RELIEVE A PARTIAL PARALYSIS. SAWYER CONFINED TO
BED. HIS LIFE EXPECTANCY IS ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

HOSTETTER

FWM/jeb
(4)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-42

EX-116

7-576-15408

APR 8 1955

1357
71 APR 13 1955

Approved: *D8H*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *M* Per *Per*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

Airtel
Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI, CHICAGO (7-82) 5/11/55

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID

SAWYER's condition has taken slight change for worse. Prognosis unchanged.

HOSTETTER

FWM:RMB
(4)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-99

EX-115

7-576-15409
9 MAY 13 1955

F410
67 MAY 19 1955

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIR-TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, CHICAGO (7-82)

JUNE 21, 1955

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID.

U.S. Probation Officer BEN MEEKER presently out of town and will not return until end of week. Because of manner this case being handled U.S. Probation Office no other Probation Officer wants to delve into the file to determine SAWYER's present condition.

MEEKER will be contacted upon his return and Bureau advised.

HOSTETTER

FJM:MKR
(4)

RECORDED - 71

JUN 23 1955

Mr. Rosen

53 JUN 27 1955

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

FD-36

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 28 1955
WP
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

FBI, CHICAGO

6-28-55

4-02 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

BREKID. BUFILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX. RE CG AIRTEL JUNE TWENTYONE
LAST. U. S. PROBATION OFFICER MEEKER, CG, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT
HARRY SAWYER DIED LAST JUNE TWENTY THREE LAST. NO FURTHER ACTION BEING
TAKEN.

HOSTETTER

RECORDED-99

END AND ACK

LINE E WORD 4 " LAST " SHOULD BE OMITTED

5-03 PM OK FBI WA NG

FOR 2 MGS

DISC

Mr. Rosen

201
65 JUL 5 1955

7-576-15411
27 JUN 29 1955

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7-596-15412

United States Court of Appeals

For The Eighth Circuit

No. 15,229

Civil

VOLNEY DAVIS,

Appellant,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Appellee.

**On Appeal from the United States District Court
For the District of Minnesota
Third Division**

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES

COUNTER-STATEMENT OF FACTS

There is no printed record in this appeal. There is an original transcript of the record of proceedings consisting of 715 pages, a copy of which was furnished to appellant, Volney Davis, at Government expense. There is a printed supplement to the original record.

Pursuant to this Court's order of January 25, 1954, reported in *Davis v. United States*, 8 Cir., 210 F.2d 118, a full-scale hearing was held on the motion of Volney Davis pursuant to 28 U.S.C., Section 2255, before the Honorable Gunnar H. Nordbye, Chief Judge, which resulted in an order denying the motion. See *Volney Davis, Petitioner, v. United States of America, Respondent*, D.C., Minn., decided August

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36
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Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to:

FBI, CHICAGO (7-82) MARCH 14, 1955

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID. REURAIRTEL 3/8/55. PROBATION OFFICER WAYNE KEYSER, CG., ADVISED SAWYER PAROLED 2/21/55 FOR LIFE AND LEFT LEAVENWORTH ON A STRETCHER VIA AMBULANCE TO CG. PRESENTED ARRIVAL NOTICE AT CG. 2/24/55. HE IS UNDER CARE OF DR. ABRAHAM SERBY, 104 S. MICHIGAN, CG. CASE BEING SUPERVISED PERSONALLY BY BEN MEEKER, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER, WHO HAS REQUESTED FROM DR. A MONTHLY PROGRESS RPT TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE END OF EA. MO. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED MONTHLY OF SAWYER'S CONDITION.

END

HOSTETTER

FWM:MDW
(4)

Mr. Rosen

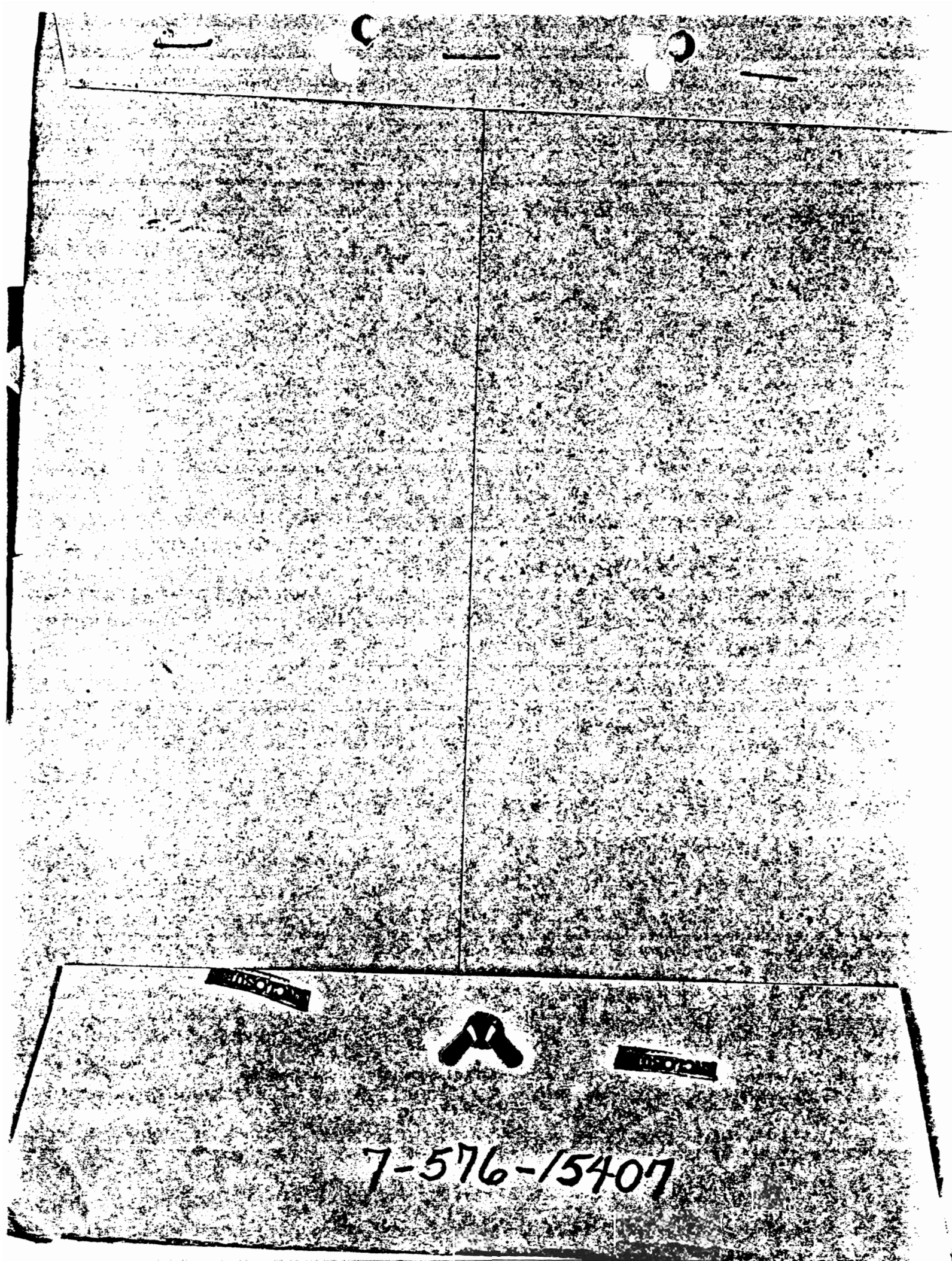
RECORDED-95

7-576-1540
6 MAR 15 1955

67 MAR 18 1955

278
Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____



7-576-15407

FOOTE, CONE & BELLING

Advertising

6233 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. • HOLLYWOOD, 28 • HOLLYWOOD 9-6265

CLIENT: _____ REVISION: _____ STATIONS: _____
PRODUCT: _____ APPROVAL: _____ B'CAST: _____
DATE: _____ REPEAT: FIRST DRAFT

HALLMARK HALL OF FAME

EDWARD ARNOLD

Presenting

"J. EDGAR HOOVER"

by

Robert Yale Libbott

CAST

HOOVER.....
TOLSON.....
BRYANT.....
CURRAN.....
FRED BARKER.....
ALVIN KARPIS.....
EDWARD BREMER.....
McGEE.....
WOMAN.....
MAN.....
VENDOR.....
OPERATOR.....

(NOTE: STREET CRIES FROM
"CREOLE SONGS", DISC RECORDS.)

LW

H206 10M G300 2-54

11-576-151167

1 GOSS: Remember a HALLMARK CARD....when you care enough to send
2 the very best.
3 MUSIC: THEME UP...DOWN FOR:
4
5
6 GOSS: From Hollywood...the mekers of HALLMARK CARDS bring you a
7 true story from the life of J. Edgar Hoover *on the
8 HALLMARK HALL OF FAME
9 MUSIC: TYMPANY ROLL AT * ABOVE...MUSIC THEN SWELLS TO CLIMAX AND
10 OUT
11
12
13 GOSS: And here is our distinguished host, Mr. Edward Arnold.
14 (APPLAUSE)

1 ARNOLD: GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND WELCOME TO THE
 2 HALLMARK HALL OF FAME. --- TO THE SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE
 3 F.B.I., JOHN EDGAR HOOVER IS, SIMPLY, --"THE DIRECTOR".
 4 HE'S HAD THAT JOB FOR THIRTY YEARS NOW. BUT THE FIGHT
 5 AGAINST CRIME IS NO ONE-MAN FIGHT; THE F.B.I. NO ONE-MAN
 6 OPERATION. IN HONORING MR. HOOVER, WE SALUTE ALSO THE
 7 THOUSANDS OF OTHER MEN, THEIR NAMES MASKED BEHIND THOSE
 8 THREE FAMOUS INITIALS...THEIR WORK METICULOUS, RELENTLESS,
 9 OCCASIONALLY HAZARDOUS. SOME CASES ARE SOLVED IN A FEW
 10 HOURS. THE ONE YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR TOOK TWO-AND-A-HALF
 11 YEARS. --- TONIGHT, IN TRIBUTE TO THE DIRECTOR AND THE MEN
 12 OF THE F.B.I., THE HALLMARK HALL OF FAME PRESENTS A RADIO
 13 DOCUMENT EXTRACTED FROM THE OFFICIAL FILES OF THE FEDERAL
 14 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
 15 JUSTICE. NOW, HERE IS FRANK GOSS.

16 *laboratory*

29 LW

1 MUSIC: SHARP DOCUMENTARY BRASS FIGURE..REPEAT..CUT SHARP FOR:
2
3
4 ARNOLD: SHORTLY AFTER 8:30 AM, JANUARY 17, 1934, A LINCOLN SEDAN
5 APPROACHES THE INTERSECTION OF GOODRICH AND LEXINGTON
6 AVENUES, IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA. THE DRIVER, EDWARD
7 GEORGE BREMER, A MEMBER OF A WEALTHY AND PROMINENT ST.
8 PAUL FAMILY. AS IS HIS CUSTOM DURING THE SCHOOL TERM, HE
9 HAS DRIVEN HIS NINE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, HERTZY, TO HER
10 PRIVATE SCHOOL AND IS PROCEEDING TO HIS OFFICE AT A LOCAL
11 BANK. AS HE STOPS FOR A TRAFFIC SIGN AT LEXINGTON
12 AVENUE, A STRANGER APPROACHES THE LEFT FRONT DOOR OF HIS
13 VEHICLE.
14 SOUND: TRAFFIC UNDER..CAR DOOR OPENED
15 KARPIS: (LOW, COLD) All right, Bremer..move over.
16 BREMER: Hey, whet is this? You can't --
17 SOUND: OTHER CAR DOOR OPENED
18 FRED BARKER: Think not?
19 BREMER: Wait a min -- (BREAKS OFF..MOANS AS:)
20 SOUND: BREMER IS HIT ON HEAD WITH BLUNT OBJECT..BLOW REPEATED..
21 BODY SLUMPS
22 KARPIS: Let's go.
23 SOUND: CLOSE CAR DOORS..CAR ZOOMS OFF
24 MUSIC: REPEAT FIGURE AND OUT
25
26

LW

1 ARNOLD: AT ABOUT 10:40 A.M., WALTER MCGEE, A CONTRACTOR, RECEIVED
2 A TELEPHONE CALL IN HIS OFFICE, 118 WEST CENTRAL AVENUE,
3 ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.
4 SOUND: PHONE RINGS..PICKED UP
5 MCGEE: Hello.
6 BARKER: (FILTER) This Mr. McGee?
7 MCGEE: That's right.
8 BARKER: (FILTER) You a friend of Ed Bremer's?
9 MCGEE: (SURPRISED) Why, yes--yes. What --
10 BARKER: (FILTER) (CUT HIM OFF) There's a note for you...out the
11 side door. If you wanna see Ed again, you'll do like it
12 says...just like it says.
13 SOUND: PHONE CLICKS OFF ON FILTER,,,PHONE JIGGLED
14 MCGEE: Hello...hello...Who is this? Hello.
15 SOUND: HANG UP PHONE..FOOTSTEPS..OPEN DOOR..MORE FOOTSTEPS..
16 RATTLE NOTE..UNFOLD IT..SLOW FOOT STEPS UNDER:
17 MCGEE: (READING) Charles McGee. You are hereby declared in on a
18 very desperate undertaking. Don't try to cross us. You
19 future and B's are the important issue. Follow these
20 instructions to the letter. Police have never helped in
21 such a spot and won't this time either. (BREAK OFF)
22 SOUND: FINAL QUICK FOOTSTEPS..FLIP PHONE BOOK..STEP OFF..LIFT
23 PHONE..DIAL O
24 MCGEE: (SLIGHTLY OFF) (QUICKLY) Operator, get me Washington, D.C.
25 please. NATIONAL 7117. -- Yes, I'll hold on.
26 SOUND: STEP ON..PICK UP NOTE

RT

1 MCGEE: (READING) Your friend is none too comfortable now, so
2 don't delay the (BREAK OFF)

3 SOUND: PHONE CLICKS LIVE ON FILTER..RINGS..CUT IN MID RING

4 OPERATOR: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

5 MUSIC: FIGURE AND OUT

6

7

8 ARNOLD: *not shown* NATIONAL 7117, THE EMERGENCY NUMBER OF THE FBI, AVAILABLE
9 TO ANY CITIZEN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY. A CALL TO THIS
10 NUMBER SETS IN MOTION A CHAIN REACTION, ACTIVATING LAW
11 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON A NATIONAL BASIS. -- AT 4:00 PM,
12 JANUARY 17, 1934 A MEETING IS HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE
13 DIRECTOR, LOCATED IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON
14 D.C. THE FACTS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO PILE UP.

15 HOOVER: The ransom demanded is \$200,000. Payment to be made in 5
16 and 10 dollar bills...no new money..no consecutive numbers..
17 large variety of issues.

18 BRYANT: Excuse me, Mr. Hoover...

19 HOOVER: Yes, Bryant?

20 BRYANT: Wouldn't that seem to indicate that the kidnappers are
21 professionals...part of an organized gang?

22 HOOVER: In my opinion, yes.

23 BRYANT: Is there a method of payment established, sir?

24 HOOVER: The go-between is to insert an advertisement in the
25 personal column of the Minneapolis Tribune. Payment
26 instructions will follow.

27 CURRAN: What about the second note...the one supposed to be from
28 Bremer himself. Is that genuine?

RT

1 HOOVER: Any further word on that, Tolson.
 2 TOLSON: Both notes are addressed to Charles McGee. McGee's name
 3 is Walter. There are misspellings in both notes. However,
 4 there seems some possibility that Bremer's signature is in
 5 his own handwriting. Both notes and handwriting specimens
 6 are being flown to Washington.
 7 HOOVER: Good. Get them into the ^{Technical Laboratory} ~~crime~~ lab right away. When the
 8 handwriting experts finish, have chemical and microscopic
 9 tests run on the paper... I'd like a full report on
 10 quality, content, manufacturer and distribution outlets
 11 in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.
 12 TOLSON: Yes, sir.
 13 HOOVER: Bryant, you and Curran will take the first available plane
 14 to St. Paul. I've ordered twenty special agents with
 15 experience in this type of case flown into the area.
 16 They'll operate under your supervision.
 17 BRYANT: Very good, sir.
 18 HOOVER: Keep all activities under cover in order to facilitate the
 19 victim's release.
 20 BRYANT: What about the ransom money, sir?
 21 HOOVER: The Bremer family have indicated a desire to make payment.
 22 You'll arrange with the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Paul
 23 to have a register made of the serial numbers of all bills.
 24 BRYANT: All right, sir -- only --
 25 HOOVER: Yes?
 26 BRYANT: The police report on the abandoned Lincoln sedan...the
 27 one Bremer was driving at the time of the crime...it
 28 mentions blood stains.

RT

1 HOOVER: (SHUFFLE PAPERS) That's right. (READS) Brownish stains
2 on steering wheel, gear shift, doorsill, back of front
3 seat and car floor. Identified as human blood.

4 BRYANT: Well, sir, taken with the business about the note wouldn't
5 that lead to the assumption that Bremer's already dead?

6 HOOVER: We can't make that assumption, Bryant. As long as there's
7 a chance he's alive, our first job is to keep him that
8 way. -- All right, gentlemen, that's it. You'll work out
9 of the St. Paul Field Office, but I want personal reports
10 on all developments.

11 MUSIC: QUICK BRIDGE INTO FIGURE AND OUT.

12

13

14 ARNOLD: WHILE THE SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE F.B.I. WORK UNDER COVER
15 TO ASCERTAIN THE WHEREABOUTS OF EDWARD BREMER AND THE
16 IDENTITY OF HIS ABDUCTORS, FURTHER RANSOM NOTES ARE
17 RECEIVED, BY WALTER MCGEE AND SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS IN
18 THE ST. PAUL AREA. ONE, ADDRESSED TO MRS. EDWARD BREMER
19 AND HEADED "DEAR PATZ" IS UNQUESTIONABLY IN THE VICTIM'S
20 OWN HANDWRITING. FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, EDWARD BREMER
21 IS STILL AMONG THE LIVING.

22 MUSIC: STING

23

24

25 ARNOLD: ON JANUARY 25TH, FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE
26 KIDNAPPERS, WALTER MCGEE ATTEMPTS TO DELIVER THE RANSOM
27 PAYMENT. HOWEVER, CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINALS IS NOT
28 ESTABLISHED.

29 MUSIC: STING

1ARNOLD: FOR TEN DAYS...SILENCE. THEN, ON FEBRUARY 6TH, A NEW
2 DEMAND FOR PAYMENT IS RECEIVED. INTERMEDIARY WALTER MCGEE
3 PROCEEDS TO ZUMBROTA, MINNESOTA AND DEPOSITS TWO SUIT
4 BOXES CONTAINING THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS
5 AT A SPOT MARKED BY FOUR RED FLASHLIGHTS BESIDE A DIRT
6 ROAD. (PAUSE) TWENTY FOUR HOURS LATER, AT ROCHESTER,
7 MINNESOTA, EDWARD G. BREMER IS RELEASED.

8MUSIC: FBI FIGURE AND OUT

9
10
11CURRAN: Then you haven't any idea, Mr. Bremer, how long it took
12 to reach the hide-out?
13BREMER: I'm afraid not, gentlemen. After I became conscious, I
14 was still pretty woozy...and blindfolded, of course. --
15 I -- I'm not sure--but I seem to think we passed through
16 a city...not a big city...medium sized, maybe.
17ERYANT: Any special reason for that impression?
18BREMER: I'm pretty sure I heard street cars...but we weren't around
19 traffic very long. That make sense?
20ERYANT: Yes, sir. It does. -- Now about the hideout. You were
21 blindfolded the whole time.
22BREMER: No...no not exactly. After a few days, I was allowed to
23 be without the blindfold...but only in the one room.
24ERYANT: Then you never saw the house itself...the exterior, I mean?
25BREMER: No. Sorry.
26CURRANT How about sounds, Mr. Bremer? You remember hearing
27 anything distinctive?

RT

1 BREMER: Well--not really distinctive. There were a couple of
2 dogs...barked a lot. One of them sound big...you know...
3 gruff, growling...the other one might've been some kind of
4 terrier--yap-yap, if you know what I mean.
5 CURRAN: Yes, sir. Anything else?
6 BREMER: Let me see. Children playing...three or four of them.
7 CURRAN: About what age?
8 BREMER: I don't know. Somewhere between four and eight I guess.
9 Then there was a baby upstairs. Cried a lot. Fussed.
10 Year...year and a half old, I guess. That's the honery
11 age. (SMILES) It was my kid's anyway. -- (GUPS) I used
12 to think about Hertzy quite a lot...especially when I
13 heard that baby. You understand.
14 BRYANT: Sure. - What about inanimate sounds? Traffic for instance?
15 BREMER: Yes. Traffic.
16 BRYANT: Heavy...main highway?
17 BREMER: I think so. Quite a few trucks and busses. I remember
18 them shifting gears a lot.

RT

1 BRYANT: Like at a stop sign or a railroad crossing?
2 BREMER: Yes. That was what it sounded like. -- There were some
3 trains too...not too close. Mostly morning and evening.
4 CURRAN: Commuters' specials.
5 BRYANT: Might be. -- Any noises peculiar to the house itself.
6 BREMER: Not that I can think of...oh...wait a minute. I'm
7 pretty sure there was a coal stove in the next room...
8 I could hear the coal being fed into it.
9 CURRAN: Let's see now...that gives us a house with children and
10 dogs...near a main highway...not too far from a
11 commuter...having a coal stove.
12 BREMER: That's not much help I guess. There must be fifty
13 thousand like that in Minnesota alone. -- Wish I could
14 do better.
15 BRYANT: You could recognize the room itself though?
16 BREMER: Absolutely.
17 BRYANT: Mind describing it, sir?
18 BREMER: Well -- small...ten by twelve, I'd say. Run down. Old
19 brass bed. Fairly new wallpaper..oohh...that wallpaper.
20 BRYANT: You remember the pattern?
21 BREMER: Clusters of forget-me-nots, surrounded by pink roses.
22 BRYANT: Think you could recognize it in a sample book?
23 BREMER: I'll never forget that wallpaper, Mr. Bryant.
24 CURRAN: One more thing, Mr. Bremmer. The trip back -- from the
25 hideout to Rochester. Remember any unusual details
26 about that?

JG

1 BREMER: Well, as I already told you, gentlemen, we started out
2 in a business coupe. Then switched to a four door car
3 of some kind...sedan, I guess. I had to squat on the
4 floor behind the driver. There was a tin can next to
5 me...about a regular five gallon gasoline can, I'd say.
6 I could rest my elbow on it as we drove.
7 BRYANT: Sure about it's being a gasoline can?
8 BREMER: Positive. I could smell the vapor. -- Then when we
9 were part way...we turned off the main road...drove
10 about ten minutes...and then stopped. I heard two of
11 the men get out of the car...open up the trunk and take
12 out some tin cans...two or three of them, I think. Then
13 they poured the gas into the tank.
14 CURRAN: You say this was off the main road.
15 BREMER: That's right. There was a lot of gravel striking
16 against the fenders...of course, it could have been some
17 kind of detour. -- Outside of that, nothing much stands
18 out.
19 BRYANT: I think that's enough questions for now, Mr. Bremer.
20 You've been under quite a strain. We'll come back if
21 we think of anything else.
22 SOUND: BRYANT AND CURRAN RISE
23 BREMER: Mr. Bryant...
24 BRYANT: Yes, sir?
25 BREMER: I -- I'm afraid I haven't been much help. I -- you mind
26 telling me...in a case like this...with so little to go
27 on...is there any chance of they're getting caught.

JG

1 BRYANT: I'd say the odds are about a hundred: one.
 2 BREMER: That they get away?
 3 BRYANT: No, sir -- That they go to prison.
 4 MUSIC: BRIDGE...INTO FBI FIGURE...OUT FOR:
 5
 6
 7 ARNOLD: NOT MUCH TO WORK FROM...TRAFFIC AND A COAL STOVE...A
 8 WALL PAPER PATTERN AND A COUPLE OF DOGS...SOME GAS CANS
 9 AND AN OLD BRASS BED.
 10 MUSIC: STING
 11
 12
 13 ARNOLD: FROM WASHINGTON, J. EDGAR HOOVER ORDERS A CAREFUL
 14 RUN-DOWN OF EVERY LEAD...SPECIAL AGENTS FROM ALL PARTS
 15 OF THE COUNTRY ARE FLOWN TO ST. PAUL TO HELP DO THE JOB.
 16 MUSIC: FIGURE
 17
 18
 19 ARNOLD: FEBRUARY 8TH, 1934...FBI AGENTS LOCATE A WALL PAPER
 20 PATTERN SIMILAR TO THE ONE DESCRIBED BY EDWARD BREMER
 21 IN THE ST. PAUL BRANCH OF A NATIONAL MAIL ORDER HOUSE.
 22 IT IS IDENTIFIED BY THE VICTIM AS IDENTICAL TO THAT ON
 23 THE WALL OF THE KIDNAP ROOM. A FULL CHECK OF SALES
 24 RECORDS IS COMMENCED.
 25 MUSIC: FIGURE
 26
 27

JG

1 ARNOLD: FEBRUARY 8TH, SPECIAL AGENTS, FOLLOWING THE ROUTE TAKEN
2 BY WALTER MCGEE IN PAYING THE RANSOM DISCOVER FOUR
3 FLASHLIGHTS IN A FIELD SEVERAL MILES SOUTH OF ZUMBROTA,
4 MINNESOTA. THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH RED FILMOLENSES AND
5 BEAR THE TRADEMARK, "MERIT PRODUCT". THEY ARE TRACED
6 TO THE F. & W. GRAND SILVER STORE, 67 7TH STREET, ST.
7 PAUL. A GIRL EMPLOYEE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PURCHASER
8 IS FORWARDED TO THE FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION IN
9 WASHINGTON TO BE CHECKED AGAINST KNOWN-CRIMINAL FILES.

10 MUSIC: FIGURE

11

12

13 ARNOLD: FEBRUARY 10TH, AS A RESULT OF AN FBI BULLETIN, THE
14 SHERIFF OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, WISCONSIN TURNS OVER TO THE
15 BUREAU FOUR LARGE GASOLINE CANS AND A FUNNEL FOUND BY A
16 FARMER NEAR PORTAGE, WISCONSIN. THEY ARE FLOWN
17 IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON, D. C. TO BE CHECKED BY THE
18 ~~TECHNICAL CRIME LABORATORY OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF~~
Single Finger Print Section of the FBI Ident.
ification Division
19 ~~INVESTIGATION TO BE CHECKED~~ FOR LATENT FINGERPRINTS.

20 MUSIC: FIGURE TO STRONG CHORD AND OUT

21

22

23 HOOVER: All right, gentlemen. We've got some evidence. Let's
24 see if we can put it together and come up with some
25 answers. We know that there were at least five men
26 involved in the kidnapping.

JG

1 BRYANT: Probably more than that, sir. The ransom negotiations
2 seem to have been handled by persons other than the
3 actual participants.
4 HOOVER: Good point, Bryant. In any case, we know we're dealing
5 with a highly organized gang...most likely one of long
6 standing. Next, there is a latent thumb print on one of
7 the gasoline cans.
8 BRYANT: Did it match up to the file, sir?
9 HOOVER: Yes. -- Arthur Barker...also known as "Doc" Barker.
10 Next, the salesgirl's description of the man who
11 purchased the flashlights appears to be that of Alvin
12 Karpis...and the girl has identified a photograph.
13 Well, it all seems to add up.
14 TOLSON: The Barker-Karpis gang.
15 HOOVER: Exactly...just about the most dangerous and best
16 organized group of criminals still at large. Well...
17 we've made progress. We know our enemy...and we know
18 he's tough. Now let's find them.
19 MUSIC: FIGURE TO ACT CURTAIN
20
21
22 (APPLAUSE)

JG

1 MUSIC: FIGURE ... OUT FOR:

2

3 ARNOLD: THE FIRST PHASE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KIDNAPPING
4 OF EDWARD BREMER IS OVER. J. EDGAR HOOVER AND HIS AIDES
5 HAVE PINPOINTED THEIR QUARRY. -- THE BARKER-KARPIS
6 GANG, A BIG BUSINESS IN CRIME ... BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
7 KATE "MA" BARKER, WHO MADE KILLING A FAMILY OCCUPATION,
8 HER SONS "DOC" AND FRED BARKER, BOTH KNOWN KILLERS, ALVIN
9 KARPIS, ALREADY ONE OF AMERICA'S "MOST-WANTED" MEN. PHASE
10 TWO TAKES TIME, AND PATIENCE, AND MONOTONOUS PERSERVERENCE.
11 ELEVEN MONTHS GO BY WITHOUT A MAJOR ARREST. FINALLY, IN
12 THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY, 1935, THE EFFORTS OF THE
13 DIRECTOR AND OF HUNDREDS OF SPECIAL AGENTS BEGINS TO PAY
14 OFF. "DOC" BARKER IS LOCATED IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS ...
15 PLACED UNDER SURVEILLANCE. -- 6:30 PM, JANUARY 8TH.

16 SOUND: TRAFFIC OFF....CARS SQUEALING TO STOP...DOORS OPENED.

17 CURRAN: He's coming out. Let's go.

18 SOUND: RAIDING PARTY INTO MOTION...FAST....FOOT STEPS STOP

19 CURRAN: Hold it, Barker! Federal officers, United States
20 Department of Justice. You're under arrest.

21 ARNOLD: AMONG "DOC" BARKER'S EFFECTS, SPECIAL AGENTS FIND THE
22 FOLLOWING: ENOUGH SMALL ARMS TO EQUIP A SQUAD OF INFANTRY:
23 A LETTER IN THE HANDWRITING OF HIS BROTHER, FRED,
24 MENTIONING AN ALLIGATOR HUNT FOR A CRITTER NAMED "OL'
25 JOE": A MAP OF FLORIDA WITH A PENCIL CIRCLE AROUND THE
26 AREA OF Ocala. J. EDGAR HOOVER MOVES QUICKLY. SPECIAL
27 AGENTS WERE FLOWN INTO THE MARION COUNTY AREA OF FLORIDA.

RS

(MORE)

1 ARNOLD: (CONTINUED) INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT KATE BARKER AND
 2 HER SON, FRED, ARE RESIDING IN A COTTAGE LOCATED ON LAKE
 3 WEIR. AT DAWN ON THE SIXTEENTH OF JANUARY, A PICKED
 4 RAIDING PARTY APPROACHES THIS COTTAGE.
 5 SOUND: SWAMPY NIGHT SOUNDS....LOON CALL....THEN FOOTSTEPS ON
 6 SWAMPY GROUND....STOP....PAUSE.
 7 BYRANT: (CALLING) Mrs. Barker! -- Fred! -- Come on out. --
 8 We're Federal Officers! -- The house is surrounded.
 9 (LONG PAUSE) Come out peacefully. You won't be hurt!
 10 (ANOTHER PAUSE) This is your last chance, Mrs. Barker.
 11 Come out, or we'll come in.
 12 FRED BARKER: (OFF) All right. Come ahead.
 13 SOUND: BRIEF PAUSE....THEN BLAST OF MACHINE GUN FIRE OFF.....
 14 ANSWERING FIRE...RIFLES AND MACHINE GUNS ON MIKE.....
 15 BUILD THEN CUT SHARP.
 16 ARNOLD: (AFTER PAUSE) WHEN THE GOVERNMENT AGENTS ENTERED THE
 17 HOUSE....BOTH MA BARKER AND HER SON WERE DEAD.
 18 MUSIC: BRIDGE INTO FIGURE THEN OUT:
 19
 20
 21 TOLSON: We can close the files on the Barker family now, sir.
 22 Ma and Freddie were buried this morning..."Doc's" on his
 23 way to Alcatraz.
 24 HOOVER: That moves Karpis to the head of the list.
 25 TOLSON: Yes, sir. I've been working up the current data on him.
 26 Thought we might find a lead.
 27 HOOVER: Fine. Let's hear it.

RS

1 TOLSON: Well, for one thing, we know that he looks different.
2 He and the Barker boys all tried to change their
3 appearance and fingerprints by plastic surgery.
4 HOOVER: If the Barkers are any example, it's probably a pretty
5 badly botched job.
6 TOLSON: Yes, sir. Next, we know that he likes to keep moving
7never stays long in one place. Last report says he's
8 got a girl with him....~~Delores~~ Delaney. He may have
9 married her.
10 HOOVER: Anything else?
11 TOLSON: One more item...fishing. He's become a nut on the subject.
12 Our information is that he'd rather fish than eat....it's
13 just about all he lives for now.
14 HOOVER: Yes....funnya man writes his name all over the middle
15 of the continent with a machine gun to get what he wants...
16 then finds out what he really wants he could have gotten
17 with a bamboo pole and a bent pin.
18 TOLSON: I know.
19 HOOVER: Well, send out a bulletin to all Field Offices and local
20 police to keep special surveillance on fishing resorts
21 and tackle shops.
22 MUSIC: BRIDGE TO FIGURE AND OUT:
23
24

RS

ARNOLD: PHASE THREE. ALVIN KARPIS...ALSO KNOWN AS "OLD CREEPY"
...NOW ALSO KNOWN AS "PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE". --
ALERTED BY F.B.I. BULLETINS, POLICE OFFICERS IN ATLANTIC
CITY, NEW JERSEY SPOT KARPIS IN A LOCAL HOTEL..TRY TO
SHOOT IT OUT...KARPIS SHOOTS FIRST. -- THE STEADY,
RELENTLESS DAY AFTER DAY INVESTIGATIONS BEGIN AGAIN.
SPRING...SUMMER...FALL....IN NOVEMBER, A LEAD. TWO
DARING HOLD UPS IN OHIO. THE CHIEF SUSPECT, ALVIN KARPIS.
A GET-AWAY VEHICLE IS IDENTIFIED....A PRIVATE AIRPLANE.
THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MARKINGS, THE PLANE
IS TRACED TO HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS. THERE, SPECIAL AGENTS
FIND KARPIS, BUT, WARNED BY UNDERWORLD CONNECTIONS, HE
EFFECTS HIS ESCAPE...TAKING ONLY HIS GUNS AND HIS FISHING
TACKLE. -- FROM WASHINGTON, J. EDGAR HOOVER ORDERS A
SPECIAL CHECK ON THE WINTER FISHING GROUNDS OF THE GULF
COAST....CONCENTRATING ON TOURIST CAMPS, SPORT FISHING
PIERS, TACKLE SHOPS. AGAIN THE WORK IS SLOW, METHODICAL...
MONOTONOUS. THE RESULTS, NIL. THEN, AT CORPUS CHRISTI,
TEXAS, A PIER OPERATOR RECOGNIZES A PHOTOGRAPH.
CURRAN: You're sure this is the same man, Mrs. Humbolt?
WOMAN: (TEXAS DRAWL) Dead sure. Ah'd know those eyes anyplace...
cold...like one o' them big river cat-fish. -- He took
one o' my boats out most every day. Didn't get much
though...always complainin' about the fishin'. Finally,
'bout two weeks ago...he stopped comin'. Guess he moved
on.
CURRAN: Any idea where? Ever hear him mention trying some other
spot.

1 WOMAN: Come to think of it...he did say some'nin' about
2 Biloxi....Biloxi, Mississippi.

3 MUSIC: FIGURE

4

5

6 SOUND: TELETYPE

7 CURRAN: Man believed to be Alvin Karpis departed Biloxi, Saturday.

8 Probable destination; New Orleans.

9 MUSIC: FIGURE

10

11

12 VENDOR: (STREET CHANT .. OFF .. START AND CONTINUE UNDER SCENE...

13 FADING) Oh, shrimpee..row-row..row-row.(*) Up to your

14 door-door..door-door. Bet you'll want more-more..more-

15 more. Shrimp-ee! Shrimp-ee!

16 MAN: (SOUTHERN ACCENT) (START LINE AT * ABOVE) Why, yes suh,

17 I most surely do recognize him. He's the fella that

18 bought the yella feather jig day before yesterday.

19 BRYANT: Happen to know his name?

20 MAN: Afraid not. -- Lives somewhere in the neighborhood, though.

21 Seen him around...drives a dark car....Plymouth maybe.

22 Reason I remember him so clear was that jig. Can't

23 catch no fish on a yella feather in N'Orleans this time

24 a year.

25 MUSIC: FIGURE

26

27

RS

1 ARNOLD: WORD IS FLASHED TO WASHINGTON THAT ALVIN KARPIS, PUBLIC
2 ENEMY NUMBER ONE, HAS BEEN LOCATED. THE DIRECTOR,
3 ACCOMPANIED BY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR TOLSON. AND A PICKED
4 SQUAD OF SPECIAL AGENTS, FLIES TO NEW ORLEANS TO TAKE
5 PERSONAL COMMAND OF THE RAIDING PARTY.

6 SOUND: BUZZ OF VOICES...STOP...SPREAD OUT PAPERS

7 HOOVER: These plans are a detailed lay out of the apartment Karpis
8 is occupying on Canal Street. As you can see it's on a
9 busy intersection -- windows covering both corners..two
10 exits....just about a perfect defensive position.

11 BRYANT: Which way do we approach, sir?

12 HOOVER: The raiding party will be divided into four groups.
13 Group One, consisting of two cars will park on Canal
14 Street at 5:00 p.m. Tolson and I will approach the
15 building from the North ... Meeting the occupants of the
16 other car at the door. Group Two will cover the back of
17 the building. Bryant...you'll take charge there.

18 BRYANT: Yes, sir.

19 HOOVER: Groups three and four will be deployed on rooftops and
20 in an automobile cordon respectively. -- Any further
21 questions?

22 CURRAN: Canal Street's pretty heavily traveled that time of day,
23 sir.

24 HOOVER: Arrangements have been made with City Street Maintenance
25 to hold one lane closed on the side of Canal Street
26 nearest Karpis' apartment...until just prior to five
27 o'clock. That should enable to rendezvous without
28 interference from traffic, and still not alert the
29 fugitive. --

(MORE)

United States Court of Appeals

For The Eighth Circuit

No. 15,229

Civil

VOLNEY DAVIS,

Appellant,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Appellee.

**On Appeal from the United States District Court
For the District of Minnesota
Third Division**

BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES

GEORGE E. MACKINNON,
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ALEX DIM,
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11, 1954, and reported at 123 F. Supp. 407 (S. R. 16). The Government introduced testimony at the hearing, which lasted from July 7 through July 12, 1954, and produced evidence which reconstructed the events leading to the arrest of Volney Davis; the arrest of Volney Davis; his transportation from Chicago, Illinois, to St. Paul, Minnesota; his arraignment before Judge Matthew M. Joyce, on June 3, 1935, in Federal Court, St. Paul, Minnesota; and his subsequent sentence to life imprisonment on June 7, 1935.

A review of the original record clearly discloses that the testimony and evidence sustains the findings of the trial court. The evidence discloses that Edward George Bremer was kidnapped in St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934 (O. R. 2). Volney Davis was indicted, along with others, for conspiracy to kidnap Mr. Bremer on January 22, 1935, at which time a bench warrant was issued for his arrest (S. R. 1). On February 18, 1935, a return was made on the bench warrant that Volney Davis could not be found (O. R. 372). On June 1, 1935, Volney Davis was arrested in Chicago and hereafter was transported commencing the next day, June 2, 1935, by airplane, from Chicago, Illinois, to Wold-Chamberlain Field, Minneapolis, Minnesota, the transportation being completed about 6:00 A. M. on June 3, 1935 (O. R. 336). On June 3, 1935, Volney Davis was arraigned before the Honorable Matthew M. Joyce in Federal Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, and entered a plea of guilty to the indictment returned against him, No. 6096 (S. R. 9). Judge Joyce deferred sentence until June 7, 1935. On June 7, 1935, Volney Davis was sentenced by Judge Joyce to life imprisonment (S. R. 10). At the time of arraignment and at the time of sentence Volney Davis was not represented by counsel. On October 10, 1939, the judgment of conviction of June 7, 1935, was corrected to show that Volney Davis did not appear at the time of sentence with counsel (S. R. 11).

Volney Davis was born January 29, 1902, in Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma. Thereafter he moved with his parents to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he went to the sixth grade in school. One of his schoolmates was Freddie Barker. When Davis was 17 years old he was sentenced to the Oklahoma Penitentiary on September 20, 1919, to serve three years for stealing some shoes (O. R. 55). He was again arrested on March 4, 1922, was represented by counsel, had a jury trial, was found guilty of first degree murder (O. R. 57-58) and sentenced on February 3, 1923, to life imprisonment in the State Penitentiary, McAlester, Oklahoma (S. R. 55). Davis served his sentence from February, 1923, until November, 1932, at which time he received eight months' leave by virtue of the bribing of a certain official by one of the Barker boys (O. R. 61-62). While on leave he received an additional 12 months' extension. Upon getting his leave he immediately joined up with Fred and "Doc" Barker and their gang (O. R. 62) and from that time on was supported by them and was on their payroll doing their bidding (O. R. 51).

While in the State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, Davis was in solitary confinement from 1927 to 1931 apparently for attempted escapes (O. R. 58-59-60). During the time Davis was out on leave, Bremer was kidnapped in St. Paul on January 17, 1934. At that time Davis was living in St. Paul, Minnesota, where the Barker-Karpis gang was headquartered, and he had constant contact with that gang. After the kidnapping Davis continued to have contact with the Barker-Karpis gang, in Chicago, in other parts of Illinois, and in Ohio. When asked to return to the McAlester Penitentiary in the spring of 1934 and tell the Furlough Board the whereabouts of "Doc" Barker, Davis testified, "I would rather have been dead than went back to that isolation I had gotten out of." (O. R. 16.)

The evidence indicates that on February 7, 1935, Davis was arrested by F.B.I. agents in Kansas City, Missouri, and was being taken by airplane to Chicago. Because of a snowstorm a forced landing occurred near Yorkville, Illinois. At that time Davis effected an escape from two F.B.I. agents by throwing a beer glass into the face of one of the agents and diving through a window (O. R. 19-20). Davis admitted that he was never mistreated while under the custody or control of the F.B.I. after his arrest (O. R. 29-30). Davis admitted that he was told he was charged with the Bremer kidnapping after his arrest in Chicago (O. R. 34). Volney Davis knew that the F.B.I. had about \$1,100.00 of his money. He wasn't sure whether he could get his hands on that money or whether it would be confiscated. Nevertheless, his desire was to see to it that his parents should get this money rather than a "Jack leg" lawyer that would only enter a plea of guilty for him. This money did go to his parents within six months (S. R. 43, Ex. 1) (O. R. 66-69 and 540). Appellant admits signing, voluntarily, a waiver of removal. This was executed on June 1, 1935 (O. R. 69 and S. R. 44, Govt. Ex. 2). While awaiting sentence Davis admits that he discussed with John DeCourcy, attorney for Arthur "Doc" Barker and Edna Murray, the possibilities of his withdrawing his guilty plea of June 3, 1935. He claims he was advised by DeCourcy that it could not be done and that Davis "was sunk." (O. R. 70-72). DeCourcy testified and denied that he made such statement, but admitted seeing Davis about transfer of a car (O. R. 527). "Doc" Barker was found guilty in May of 1935 and sentenced by Judge Joyce to life imprisonment (S. R. 96). Edna Murray, Davis' girl friend, was tried at the same time, but obtained a dismissal in the middle of the trial (S. R. 94). Davis gave a voluntary statement to the F.B.I. on June 1, 1935 (Govt. Ex. 3, S. R. 45), which statement disclosed he knew a great deal about the Barker-Karpis gang and

showed his close association with them, but at the same time Davis was careful not to implicate himself with the actual kidnapping of Mr. Bremer (O. R. 86-88). Davis testified that he was not abused or threatened in any manner by F.B.I. agents (O. R. 65). He admits that the Clerk of Court read the indictment (S. R. 30) to him in open court at the time of his arraignment on June 3, 1935, and that he at that time entered a plea of guilty (O. R. 49). It is clear from the evidence that no court reporter was present during the arraignment on June 3, 1935, nor at the time of sentence on June 7, 1935. The law at that time did not require nor provide for a court reporter. In an interview with Louis H. Gollop, a newspaper reporter, Davis told him, prior to his sentence, that he had read about the convictions of some of his co-defendants (O. R. 558).

Joseph T. Lynch, the Deputy Clerk of Court who made the minute entries of June 3 and June 7, 1935, corroborated Judge Joyce's testimony that appellant was advised by Judge Joyce about his constitutional rights to counsel and that Davis told Judge Joyce he did not desire counsel on June 3, 1935. Lynch further testified that at the time of his sentence on June 7, 1935, Judge Joyce asked appellant if he had anything to say prior to the imposition of sentence (O. R. 405).

It is respectfully submitted that Judge Joyce's testimony is fully corroborated by the testimony of the following:

1. Raymond C. Suran, Special Agent of the F.B.I. Davis told Suran that he wanted to plead guilty (O. R. 244).
2. Robert Thompson, a newspaper reporter, who was in the court room at the time of the arraignment on June 3, 1935, and at the time of sentence, June 7, 1935 (O. R. 296-298).
3. John E. Brennan, Special Agent of the F.B.I. Davis told Brennan he would plead guilty to the conspiracy indict-

ment. He told Brennan that he was able to retain counsel with funds he had available but could see no point in doing so. All the attorney would do would be to enter a plea for him Davis told Brennan (O. R. 340).

4. William H. Eckley, Deputy Clerk of Court (O. R. 385).

5. Joseph T. Lynch, Deputy Clerk of Court (O. R. 401, 405).

6. Ernest E. Kuhnel, Special Agent of the F.B.I. (O. R. 443).

7. James M. Klees, Special Agent of the F.B.I. (O. R. 443).

8. Harold E. Andersen, Special Agent in Charge, F.B.I. Andersen asked appellant before his arraignment if he wished an attorney and if he wished to plead guilty. Davis indicated to Andersen that he would plead guilty and that he did not want an attorney (O. R. 465-466).

9. Samuel W. Hardy, Special Agent of the F.B.I. (O. R. 478-479).

10. John C. De Courcy, attorney at law. He was attorney for Arthur "Doc" Barker and for Edna Murray. He admits seeing Davis before his sentence but denies that he told Davis that he could not withdraw his guilty plea and that Davis was "sunk." (O. R. 512-528).

11. Edward R. Picha, bailiff for Judge Joyce. He saw Davis put up two fingers thereby indicating to defendant Farmer, that Davis now had two life sentences (O. R. 533).

12. Jack B. MacKay, newspaper reporter (O. R. 547, 548, 552).

Concerning his arraignment of June 3, 1935, Davis testified, in part, as follows:

By Mr. Strong:

Q. That was Judge Matthew Joyce?

A. Matthew M. Joyce. He asked me if my name was Volney Davis. I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "Have you agreed to enter a plea of guilty?" I said, "I would like to know what the maximum sentence is that I could receive for this crime." He told me, "You could receive up to a life sentence." I said, "Well, I will enter a plea of guilty to conspiracy." He said, "Do you want to hear the indictment read or have you read the indictment?" I believe he asked me first, "Have you read the indictment?" I told him, "No, I haven't." He said, "Do you want to hear the indictment read?" I said, "Yes, sir, I would like to." There was someone they asked in the court room to read it and he told the Judge it was rather long and it would take some time, and he said, "He wants the indictment read." They handed it around to two or three different people and he said he would read it and they read it. (O. R. 40-41.) (S. R. 29.)

* * * * *

Q. Were you able to understand or comprehend the matter that was read from the indictment?

A. I could figure out what it was about, so I knew it was some kind of charge that was against me and a lot of other people but I didn't even know a lot of these people and never heard of them.

Q. After the reading of the indictment what happened?

A. The Judge asked me if I pleaded guilty to that and I said I pleaded guilty to conspiracy. He said, "Return the man to the jailer and bring him back the 7th of June for sentence." (O. R. 41-42.) (S. R. 30.)

* * * * *

Q. At that time were you asked by the District Attorney or by Judge Joyce whether you were represented by counsel?

A. I was not that I remember of. It could have happened but I don't remember ever being asked.

Q. Do you recall whether or not you were asked whether you desired to have counsel assist or represent you?

A. No, sir, I was not. (O. R. 43.) (S. R. 31.)

* * * * *

Q. It may be slightly repetitious, but there is just a couple of questions I would like to ask with reference to June 3, 1935, when you were in court on your arraignment and entered your plea of guilty. At that time did Judge Joyce ask you whether or not you were represented or aided by counsel or had counsel represent you?

A. No, sir, he did not.

Q. Did Judge Joyce at that time or the District Attorney at that time and before you entered the plea of guilty advise you you had the right to have counsel and the Court, if you so requested it, would appoint counsel to represent you?

A. No, sir, I was not told.

Q. Will you tell the Court why you pleaded guilty to that indictment?

A. Well, at that time I would have went any place to keep from going back to Oklahoma and I wanted to get some place else so I would not have to go back to the isolation in Oklahoma and I knew I would be put back into it if I was taken there.

Q. Is it your position in this hearing and in this matter that if you had been represented by counsel and been advised as to your rights that you would not have entered a plea of guilty to the indictment?

A. I don't believe I could have even been found guilty of it if I had a lawyer. (O. R. 53.) (S. R. 35.)

* * * * *

Davis testified, in part, as follows, concerning his sentencing on June 7, 1935:

By Mr. Strong:

Q. Tell the Court what transpired when you were called before Judge Joyce for sentence.

A. Judge Joyce called me over before him and to the best of my memory told me, he said, "Is your name Volney Davis?" I told him, "Yes, sir." He said, "You have entered a plea of guilty to conspiracy." I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "I am going—" he asked me—I asked him—he asked me did I have a lawyer, and I said,

"No, I don't. I don't need one, do I?" He said, "No, you don't." He said, "You have entered a plea of guilty to conspiracy," and he picked up papers and started reading off of it. He said, "I am not sentencing you as a conspirator. I am sentencing you as an actual kidnapper, being on the scene of the crime with a gun in your hand and you aiding and abetting in any way to carry the crime through." That paper, I wish, could be found. He sentenced me to my natural life in Leavenworth, Kansas, at hard labor. (O. R. 48-49.) (S. R. 33.)

* * * * *

The court docket entries (S. R. 89) and the court term minutes in Criminal Indictment No. 6096, Third Division (S. R. 75), the same indictment in which the defendant Volney Davis and a number of other persons are named as co-defendants in this conspiracy indictment, clearly show that a number of co-defendants in that case were represented by counsel appointed by Judge Joyce. The appointments took place in the following instances.

On April 2, 1935, co-defendant James J. Wilson entered a plea of guilty to the conspiracy indictment in Criminal No. 6096, but nevertheless Judge Joyce ordered that the Court appoint counsel for said co-defendant James J. Wilson. The court docket entries (S. R. 78) indicate that on April 3, 1935, Judge Joyce appointed Attorney Thomas J. Newman to represent co-defendant James J. Wilson. On that same date the court docket entries indicate that Judge Joyce appointed Attorney Eugene F. Matthew to represent co-defendants Harold Alderton and Jess Doyle who were also charged as conspirators in the same indictment as Volney Davis, that is, Criminal No. 6096 in the Third Division (S. R. 78). The court's term minutes for April 13, 1935, indicate that Judge Joyce appointed Attorney E. F. Matthews to represent co-defendant Oliver A. Berg who was also charged as one of the conspirators in Criminal No. 6096, Third Division, the

indictment to which Volney Davis, the appellant herein, had entered a plea of guilty (S. R. 79). The court's term minutes for April 15, 1935, show that at the opening of trial of several co-defendants charged in the same case as Volney Davis, that is, Criminal No. 6096, Third Division, that one of the co-defendants, Byron Bolton, decided at that time to waive counsel before Judge Joyce and enter a plea of guilty (S. R. 80).

On September 7, 1950, Davis wrote a letter to Judge Joyce in which he stated in part as follows:

"I never had an active part in this crime but through my association with this gang and my past record and what the FBI had told me I knew I was classed as a conspirator. They also told me if I pleaded guilty I would be given a term of years. So as I had a sentence of life in Oklahoma I thought I would be just as well off in federal prison. Those were the reasons for me entering a plea to conspiracy." (O. R. 95-96, Govt. Ex. 6.) (S. R. 64.)

Davis admitted on cross examination that he knew before he was sentenced on June 7, 1935, that he would receive a 1 sentence (O. R. 102).

Davis admitted that from June 3 to June 14, 1935, he told no one that he wanted an attorney. He admitted that he talked to Attorney DeCourcy prior to his sentence (O. R. 107-108).

The Honorable Matthew M. Joyce, Judge of the United States District Court, testified that he became a Federal judge February 16, 1932, and was presiding at the arraignment on June 3, 1935, at St. Paul, Minnesota, when Volney Davis pleaded guilty. Judge Joyce testified there was no court reporter present at that time, that court reporters were not authorized for Federal Courts until some time in January of 1944. Judge Joyce testified that his memory had been refreshed in this case from time to time because of correspon-

dence with Volney Davis and his family, as well as the habeas corpus hearing in San Francisco and the further proceedings from time to time involving Volney Davis (O. R. 182-187).

Judge Joyce testified in part as follows:

By Mr. Dim:

Q. Judge Joyce, can you tell us in your own words, as best you can recollect, what occurred on June 3, 1935, with reference to Volney Davis and his arraignment?

A. Well, George Sullivan, who was then District Attorney—I don't know whether it was that morning or the afternoon before. I think it was that morning, he told me that Volney Davis wanted to enter a plea and he wanted to arrange with me for the time of so doing. I told him I would take the plea that morning. When court met at 10 o'clock Mr. Sullivan was there and Davis was there and all of the court officers were there. Davis stood up. Mr. Sullivan stated what he was there for. I asked him if he had a lawyer or counsel. He said he did not. I asked him if he wanted a lawyer. He said no. I asked him also if he had funds whereby he could employ a lawyer and that if he did not I would appoint one for him without cost to himself. He said no he didn't want any lawyer, that he would like to have the indictment read and he would be ready to plead. I asked Mr. Lynch to read the indictment, which he did, and Lynch then asked him what was his plea and he answered, "Guilty."

Q. And what was the next thing that happened after that?

A. I continued the case until June 7th for sentence, and that is three full days. I never heard a word from Davis or anybody in his behalf in the interim. He never reported to me of any rough treatment, if I might call it that, that occurred to him; he never sought out me to make complaint about any treatment of which he complained at all. I was in my office here each day in this building.

Q. Then June 7th, what happened on June 7th, Judge?

A. June 7th, pursuant to appointment, there were four others of the kidnappers that were sentenced that

day. I can only think of the names of Wilson and Farmer. The others, I don't know who they were, and then I called him next. He stood up in front of me—

Q. Volney Davis?

A. Volney Davis, and I told him he was there for sentence.

Q. Did he have a lawyer?

A. No. He did not have a lawyer. He said he didn't want one so I took that as definite.

Q. Did you ask Volney Davis at the time of sentence whether or not he had a lawyer?

A. I don't know whether I did or not.

Q. Did he say to you, as best as you can recollect, that he didn't have a lawyer at that time?

A. I didn't hear you.

Q. Did he say to you at that time, at the time of sentence, that he didn't have a lawyer?

A. No, he did not.

Q. Did he say to you, "Do I have to have a lawyer," at the time of sentence?

A. He did not. We had no conversation at all. He just stood up. He was there for sentence and I imposed sentence on him on his plea on the 3rd.

Q. I am talking about the 7th. Did you tell Volney Davis on the 7th, words to this effect: "You have a lawyer?" And he said, "No." And he asked you, "Do I need a lawyer?" And you said, "No, you don't. Did you have any such conversation?"

A. Absolutely not.

Q. And what was the sentence?

A. Life imprisonment.

Q. Prior to a plea of guilty on June 3rd, did you have a conversation with anyone, whether George Heisey, George Sullivan, I believe that was his first name, or anyone from the FBI or others concerning a plea of Volney Davis of guilty and receiving a light sentence or any kind of sentence?

A. I did not. Heisey had nothing to do with this case. Mr. Sullivan handled it entirely.

Q. Did you have any such agreement with Mr. Sullivan?

A. I did not.

Q. Or anyone else?

A. Or anyone else, no conversation.

Q. On June 7, 1935, when Volney Davis was before you for sentence, was he asked before sentence was imposed if he had anything to say before sentence?

A. No, he didn't. He didn't say anything at all. I don't know that I asked him.

Q. You don't recall whether you asked him?

A. No. I possibly did, but I couldn't swear to that.

Q. The first time you laid eyes on Volney Davis, June 3, 1935, what did he appear to you as looking like with reference to clothes, dress, appearance; can you tell this Court now, the best you can recollect, your first impression of him?

A. As I recall it he was a very prepossessing young man in appearance. He was clean. He was shaved. He understood apparently what I said to him and I thought he resembled a clothing clerk or bank clerk or somebody of that sort.

Q. Did he have a regular suit on?

A. He did have a regular suit on. He was neat and clean.

Q. As far as appearance, did he look sort of like he was under duress or threats had been imposed on him?

A. No, he did not.

Mr. Strong: I object to that as calling for a conclusion of the witness.

The Court: I think the witness may state his opinion. That is a proper matter for him to cover in his testimony.

Mr. Dim: You may cross-examine. (O. R. 187, 188, 189, 190, 191.) (S. R. 37.)

At page 200, Judge Joyce testified as follows:

The Court: Mr. Gelb, I am going to ask Judge Joyce a question. You feel free to object if you think it is objectionable.

When Mr. Davis was before you on June 3rd and when you had the colloquy with him, as you have stated, regarding the services of counsel and when, you contend, he stated he didn't want counsel, was it your opinion from your observation of him and the way he appeared?

the questions that he knowingly and intelligently waived the service of counsel?

The Witness: He certainly did.

Mr. Gelb: For the record I want to object to the question and the answer to that question on the ground that it calls for a conclusion of the witness and the witness is not competent to testify to that type of question since it goes to the very essence of the question at issue.

Mr. Dim: Also for the record, the question, we believe—

The Court: You are not going to object to it, too?

Mr. Dim: No. I want to give our reasons why I had the same idea and asked my question differently.

The Court: You need not labor the point. I will overrule the objection.

Mr. Dim: I say it is proper because the Judge has to have that opinion at the time he questions the man to determine whether or not the man is intelligent enough—

The Court: The objection will be overruled and the witness has already answered the question.

The Witness: May I suggest one thing?

The Court: You may.

The Witness: That is the test Justice Murphy laid down in one of his famous criminal cases; the language that you have used. (O. R. 200, 201.) (S. R. 41.)

STATUTES INVOLVED

18 U.S.C. 408a, as it existed in 1935:

June 22, 1932 (8.1525)
(Public, No. 189)

Kidnapped, etc. persons.
Transportation of, in
interstate or foreign
commerce, forbidden.

Provisos,
"Interstate or foreign
commerce," construed.

Forbidding the transportation of any person in interstate or foreign commerce, kidnapped, or otherwise unlawfully detained, and making such act a felony.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported, or aid or abet in transporting, in interstate or foreign commerce, any person who shall have been unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled, decoyed, kidnapped, abducted, or carried away by any means whatsoever and held for ransom or reward shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for such term of years as the court, in its discretion, shall determine: Provided, That the term "interstate or foreign commerce" shall include transportation from one State, Territory, or the District of Columbia to another State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, or to a foreign country; or from a foreign country to any State, Territory, or the District of

Conspiracy to violate,
etc. punishable.

Columbia: Provided further,
That if two or more persons
enter into an agreement, con-
federation, or conspiracy to
violate the provisions of the
foregoing Act and do any
overt act toward carrying out
such unlawful agreement,
confederation, or conspiracy
such person or persons shall
be punished in like manner as
hereinbefore provided by this
Act. Approved, June 22,
1932.

28 U.S.C. 2255:

*Federal Custody; remedies on motion attacking sen-
tence.*

A prisoner in custody under sentence of a court estab-
lished by Act of Congress claiming the right to be re-
leased upon the ground that the sentence was imposed
in violation of the constitution or laws of the United
States, or that the Court was without jurisdiction to
impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess
of the maximum authorized by law, or is otherwise sub-
ject to collateral attack, may move the Court which im-
posed the sentence to vacate, set aside or correct the
sentence.

A motion for such relief may be made at any time.

Unless the motion and the files and records of the
case conclusively show that the prisoner is entitled to
no relief, the Court shall cause notice thereof to be served
upon the United States attorney, grant a prompt hear-
ing thereon, determine the issues and make findings of
fact and conclusions of law with respect thereto. If the
Court finds that the judgment was rendered without
jurisdiction, or that the sentence imposed was not author-
ized by law or otherwise open to collateral attack, or that
there has been such a denial or infringement of the con-
stitutional rights of the prisoner as to render the judg-
ment vulnerable to collateral attack, the Court shall

re and set the judgment aside and shall discharge
the prisoner or resentence him or grant a new trial or
correct the sentence as may appear appropriate.

A Court may entertain and determine such motion
without requiring the production of the prisoner at the
hearing.

The sentencing Court shall not be required to enter-
tain a second or successive motion for similar relief on
behalf of the same prisoner.

An appeal may be taken to the Court of Appeals from
the order entered on the motion as from a final judgment
on application for a writ of habeas corpus.

An application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of
a prisoner who is authorized to apply for relief by motion
pursuant to this section, shall not be entertained if it
appears that the applicant has failed to apply for relief,
by motion, to the Court which sentenced him, or that
such Court has denied him relief, unless it also appears
that the remedy by motion is inadequate or ineffective
to test the legality of his detention. June 25, 1948, c.
646, 62 Stat. 967, amended May 24, 1949, c. 139, §114,
63 Stat. 105.

Section 747 of the Revised Statutes provides as follows:

"In all the courts of the United States the parties
may plead and manage their own causes personally, or
by the assistance of counsel or attorneys at law as, by
the rules of the said courts, respectively, are permitted
to manage and conduct causes therein."

See present Title 28, U.S.C.A., Section 1654, which is based
on Title 28, U.S.C., 1940 Ed., Sec. 394 (Mar. 3, 1911, c. 231,
Sec. 272, 36 Stat. 1164) (derived from R. S., Sec. 747), which
now reads as follows:

"In all courts of the United States the parties may
plead and conduct their own cases personally or by coun-
sel, as, by the rules of such courts, respectively, are per-
mitted to manage and conduct causes therein."

U. S. Constitution—Amendment VI:

Jury Trial for Crimes, and Procedural Rights. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

- I. **The Court Did Not Err in Finding That When Appellant Entered His Plea of Guilty on June 3, 1935, He Competently, Intelligently and Understandingly Waived His Constitutional Rights to Be Represented by Counsel Under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, with a Full Understanding of the Implications Thereof.**

Johnson v. Zerbst, 1938, 304 U.S. 458.

Ruchush v. United States, 10 Cir., 206 F.2d 810.

Lipscomb v. United States, 8 Cir., 209 F.2d 831.

— *Hines v. United States*, 4 Cir., 203 F.2d 561.

United States v. Cantor, 2 Cir., 1954, 217 F.2d 536.

United States v. Morgan (1954), 346 U.S. 502.

Powell v. Alabama (1932), 287 U.S. 45.

Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

18 U.S.C.A., Section 408a (Public Law 189, June 22, 1932).

28 U.S.C.A., Section 394 (1940 Ed.).

28 U.S.C.A., Section 1654.

28 U.S.C.A., Section 2255.

Revised Statutes, Section 747.

- II. **Appellant, Volney Davis, Competently, Intelligently and Understandingly Waived His Constitutional Rights to Be Represented by Counsel Under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States at the Time of Sentencing on June 7, 1935.**

Johnson v. Zerbst (1938), 304 U.S. 458.

Bates v. Johnston, 9 Cir., 111 F.2d 966.

Walton v. United States (C.A.D.C.) (1953), 202 F.2d 18.

McKinney v. United States (C.A.D.C.) (1953), 208 F.2d 844.

ARGUMENT

I.

The Court Did Not Err in Finding That When Appellant Entered His Plea of Guilty on June 3, 1935, He Competently, Intelligently and Understandingly Waived His Constitutional Rights to Be Represented by Counsel Under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, with a Full Understanding of the Implications Thereof.

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that

“in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right * * * to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.”

That means the accused is entitled to have “the guiding hand of counsel at every step in the proceedings against him.” *Powell v. Alabama* (1932), 287 U.S. 45, 69.

The accused may waive the assistance of counsel. “Courts indulge every reasonable presumption against waiver” of this right. *Johnson v. Zerbst* (1938), 304 U.S. 458, 464.

As stated in *Johnson v. Zerbst*, supra, 304 U.S., at page 464:

“A waiver is ordinarily an intentional relinquishment or abandonment of a known right or privilege. The determination of whether there has been an intelligent

waiver of the right to counsel must depend, in each case, upon the particular facts and circumstances surrounding that case, including the background, experience and conduct of the accused."

The judgment of conviction in the case at bar, dated June 7, 1935, as corrected by the Court's order of October 10, 1939, carries with it a presumption of regularity (S. R. 10, Ex. R. 1 S. R. 11, Ex. C). In *Johnson v. Zerbst*, 304 U.S. 458, 2 Court, at pages 468, 469, stated:

"When collaterally attacked, the judgment of the court carries with it a presumption of regularity. Where a defendant, without counsel, acquiesces in a trial resulting in his conviction and later seeks release by the extraordinary remedy of habeas corpus, the burden of proof rests upon him to establish that he did not competently and intelligently waive his constitutional right to assistance of counsel."

The burden of proof here rested upon appellant Davis to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he did not competently and intelligently waive his constitutional right to the assistance of counsel. He has failed to sustain that burden.

In *United States v. Morgan* (1954), 346 U.S. 502, the Court stated at page 512:

"Of course, the absence of a showing of waiver from the record does not of itself invalidate the judgment. It is presumed the proceedings were correct and the burden rests on the accused to show otherwise."

The record fully supports and justifies the findings of the District Court that appellant, Volney Davis, competently, intelligently and understandingly, as well as voluntarily, waived his constitutional rights under the Sixth Amendment to the assistance of counsel at the time of his arraignment on June 3, 1935.

The following cases lend support to the Government's position:

Johnson v. Zerbst (1938), 304 U.S. 458.

Ruebush v. United States, 10 Cir., 206 F.2d 810.

Lipscomb v. United States, 8 Cir., 209 F.2d 831.

Hines v. United States, 4 Cir., 203 F.2d 561.

In *United States v. Cantor*, 2 Cir. (1954), 217 F.2d 536, the Court stated at page 538:

"* * * but the Constitution does not force a lawyer upon a defendant. He may waive his constitutional right to assistance of counsel, if he knows what he is doing and his choice is made with eyes open."

Appellant relies upon the case of *Johnson v. Zerbst* (1938), 304 U.S. 458, but that case is clearly distinguishable from the facts in the instant case. In the *Zerbst* case the accused entered a plea of not guilty. He had no attorney. He tried his own case. It was a new experience to him as he had never been guilty nor charged with any offense before. He was never advised of his rights to the assistance of counsel.

Take the case at bar. The District Court found, after a full and complete hearing (S. R. 16) that appellant, Volney Davis, having first been duly advised of his rights to the assistance of counsel by Judge Joyce, competently, intelligently, understandingly and voluntarily waived his right to the assistance of counsel. It is respectfully submitted that the full transcript of the testimony and the entire record herein fully sustains the District Court's findings and order of August 11, 1954, denying appellant's motion made pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A., Section 2255.

The Court's docket entries and term minutes in Criminal No. 6096 clearly point out the care and the practice that Judge Joyce was following at that time in seeing to it that the defendants involved were represented by counsel appointed by the Court, if they did not have counsel, and if they did not wish to waive counsel (O. R. 195, 314) (S. R. 75, 89).

For example, see the Court's docket entries and the term minutes for April 2, 1935, in Criminal No. 6096 (the same conspiracy indictment which included Volney Davis as a co-defendant) (S. R. 76). There it can be seen that James J. Wilson, a co-defendant, on April 2, 1935, was arraigned and entered a plea of guilty to the conspiracy indictment in Criminal No. 6096, and that Judge Joyce nevertheless ordered that the court appoint counsel for the said defendant James J.

Wilson, and that after taking the matter up with said counsel, defendant Wilson may withdraw his plea of guilty and enter a plea of not guilty. It is apparent from this entry that defendants in this same case who were without counsel in Judge Joyce's court were able to obtain counsel. Judge Joyce ordered that counsel would be appointed for him if he so requested. The term minutes and the docket entries for April 3, 1935, in Criminal No. 6096 (S. R. 78) show that on that date Judge Joyce appointed Thomas J. Newman as attorney for defendant Wilson and he also appointed Eugene F. Matthew as attorney for other co-defendants, Harold Alderton and Jess Doyle.

The Court's term minutes, as well as the docket entries (S. R. 79, 93) also show that on April 13, 1935, Judge Joyce appointed E. F. Matthews as attorney for defendant Oliver A. Berg. The Court's term minutes for April 15, 1935 (S. R. 80), show that defendant Byron Bolton in Criminal No. 6096, on the day that the case went to trial against him and a great number of the defendants, waived counsel, the minutes stating:

"Upon being questioned by the Court, Byron Bolton stated that he did not desire to be represented by counsel and that he would at this time enter a plea of guilty."

It seems clear that after Volney Davis was captured on June 1, 1935, he apparently felt relieved and was ready to enter his plea of guilty to the indictment. He so informed the

F.B.I. agents. He made no complaint of being threatened or abused by F.B.I. agents. Judge Joyce's testimony is fully corroborated and supported by the host of witnesses who were in attendance at the time of arraignment and at the time of sentencing, and who testified at the hearing in July of 1954.

Volney Davis had \$1,143.40 in cash which was being held for him by the F.B.I. It was his wish that that money be turned over to his parents, and that was done on November 21, 1935 (S. R. 43, Govt. Ex. 1). Of course, if he had funds available and which he could have used to employ his own attorney, the constitutional right to the assistance of counsel is not available. But, be that as it may, even if appellant's contention that such funds were confiscated and not available to him, nevertheless the testimony is overwhelming that he did not want the assistance of counsel and wanted to waive it, and did waive it, knowingly, intentionally and understandingly.

Davis was no novice. Not only had he been convicted of a felony while very young and served time in prison, but in addition he later was convicted after trial, and while represented by counsel, of murder (S. R. 55, Govt. Ex. 4). The letters written by Volney Davis to Judge Joyce after the sentence indicate that he had wanted to plead guilty, and did so voluntarily (S. R. 61, 64, 68, Govt. Exs. 5, 6 & 7). The letter written by Volney Davis to his parents on June 3, 1935, after his plea of guilty, also clearly indicates that his guilty plea was entered voluntarily, knowingly and understandingly (S. R. 73, Govt. Ex. 11).

It is respectfully urged that an accused who is brought promptly before a Federal court for arraignment should be thankful that his constitutional rights are being safeguarded in that manner. He thereby is brought by his captors out into the open before the Court, the public and the press. At that

time he is free to speak. At that time he is advised by the Court of his Constitutional Rights to the Assistance of Counsel for his defense. At that time he has read to him the charge for which he is being held. At that time he may waive his right to counsel or have counsel appointed for him. The choice is his. At that time he may either plead guilty or not guilty. Thereafter, he may think it over ask the Court to withdraw his guilty plea if he so chooses. At the time of sentence he may tell the Court what he wishes. These are the rights that Volney Davis was accorded, and rightly so. He decided of his own free will to waive the assistance of counsel and to plead guilty to the charge. Although he denies his guilt at this time, the evidence, nevertheless makes it clear that he is guilty of the charge contained in the indictment. Of the sentence he cannot complain. The term was within the Court's discretion. Appellant was not the only one who received a life sentence as a conspirator. (See the Docket Entries, S. R. 96).

II.

Appellant, Volney Davis, Competently, Intelligently and Understandingly Waived His Constitutional Rights to Be Represented by Counsel Under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States at the Time of Sentencing on June 7, 1935.

Judge Joyce testified that Davis did not have a lawyer representing him on June 7, 1935, at the time he was sentenced because at the arraignment of June 3, 1935, Davis had told Judge Joyce he did not want a lawyer, so Judge Joyce took that as definite (O. R. 188) (S. R. 38), and as a complete waiver of his right to counsel in the case. Judge Joyce was experienced in such matters and his conclusion as to the extent of the defendant's waiver should be given great weight. He concluded that Davis knowingly, voluntarily and understandingly, as well as intelligently, waived his right to

the assistance of counsel at the time of arraignment; and by admitting the crime through the entry a plea of guilty, Judge Joyce concluded that Davis at the same time was "definite" in his waiver of counsel for every step of the proceeding, including that of sentencing.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing resulted from the finding of Judge Nordbye in his opinion of August 11, 1954, which denied appellant's motion in all respects (S. R. 16). There is a conflict between the testimony of Judge Joyce, who believes that he said nothing at all to Volney Davis at the time of his sentence on June 7, 1935, with reference to the assistance of counsel (O. R. 190), and that of Davis who testified that Judge Joyce asked him (Davis) if he had a lawyer, and Davis replied, "No, I don't need one, do I?" Davis then further testified that Judge Joyce said, "No, you don't." (O. R. 48-49.) (S. R. 33.)

Volney Davis, prior to June 7, 1935 (the date of sentence), did talk to a lawyer named John DeCourcy in the Ramsey County Jail. John DeCourcy at that time had already tried (before Judge Joyce), and acted as attorney for Arthur "Doc" Barker, one of the ringleaders of the Barker-Karpis gang and a real close friend of Davis for years, and at the same time Mr. DeCourcy at that trial represented Edna Murray who was the girl friend of Davis for years (S. R. 77). "Doc" Barker and Edna Murray were named as co-defendants in the conspiracy indictment, Criminal No. 6096, the same indictment involved in the instant case to which Volney Davis entered a plea of guilty on June 3, 1935.

Now, although the testimony indicates that Mr. DeCourcy came to Volney Davis for the purpose of obtaining title to a certain automobile, Davis nevertheless testified that he asked DeCourcy if he could withdraw his guilty plea and DeCourcy advised him that Davis was "sunk." DeCourcy denies making such a statement and contends that he knew criminal law and

knew that the guilty plea could have been withdrawn, and denies that he so advised Davis. But, Davis by his own testimony shows that he had access to counsel before sentencing (S. R. 31).

There is testimony that indicates that Judge Joyce asked Davis if he had anything to say prior to the imposition of sentence on June 7, 1935 (O. R. 405). Davis testified that he said "no" because he did not know that he had a right to say anything in a Federal Court—he said he was only acquainted with the practice in State Courts (S. R. 36, 37).

The record is very clear that between June 3, 1935, at the time Davis entered his plea of guilty and June 7, 1935, up to the time that sentence was imposed, Davis made no effort to employ his own attorney or to communicate to anyone, including the Court, that he desired the assistance of counsel or that he desired to withdraw his guilty plea. But he did confer with a lawyer—DeCourcy.

Under the Sixth Amendment, Volney Davis, the appellant, was entitled to the assistance of counsel at the time of sentence unless he had understandingly, competently and intelligently waived such assistance. It is respectfully submitted that under all the facts, testimony and evidence, as well as the record in this case, Volney Davis did, as Judge Joyce concluded, waive the assistance of counsel at every step of the proceedings when he waived that right on June 3, 1935. *Johnson v. Zerbst*, 304 U.S. 458. His subsequent conduct is also consistent with this conclusion.

Davis was well aware that "Doc" Barker and other of Davis' co-defendants were tried in Cr. No. 6096, before Judge Joyce, commencing April 15, 1935, and ending in convictions of many of Davis' co-defendants, including "Doc" Barker, on May 17, 1935, and apparently concluded that there was no use fighting the case. Especially was this so because, having been captured, no matter what the outcome of the Bremer con-

spiracy indictment, he would have to be returned to the penitentiary at Oklahoma under any circumstances. That fact alone would indicate that Davis concluded that he would save all his money, see to it that his parents got it, and not waste it on a "jack-leg" lawyer, and would enter his plea of guilty without wasting too much time so he could get it over with (O. R. 340). It is respectfully submitted that he was well aware of what Judge Joyce was doing when the judge questioned him concerning whether or not Davis wanted the assistance of counsel in his defense. The other defendants, in the same case, such as have heretofore been mentioned, did receive the assistance of counsel appointed by Judge Joyce. Is there any reason why the judge would not have appointed counsel for Volney Davis if he had wanted a lawyer? Defendant Byron Bolton did not want a lawyer, and waived such right. So did Volney Davis. Wouldn't the fact that defendant Berg received a life sentence and that defendant Barker received a life sentence, for the same charge, have indicated to Volney Davis that a term of years could very well mean a life sentence?

If Volney Davis wanted to waive counsel and plead guilty, and did so intelligently and understandingly and competently, it certainly would be no defense to him on the question of waiver of counsel that he did not understand that the sentence was going to be a life sentence, rather than a term of years. A term of years under 18 U.S.C., Section 408a, has been interpreted to include a life sentence. See *Bates v. Johnston*, 9 Cir., 111 F.2d 966. The point on this is that there was no agreement for any sentence in return for the plea.

In *Walton v. United States* (C.A., D.C.) (1953), 202 F.2d 18, the Court upheld a conviction although the attorney who tried the case for the accused and was present at the time of the original sentence was absent at the time of the re-sentence a few minutes later, which was imposed to correct an

erroneous original sentence. The corrected sentence was a heavier sentence than the original sentence. The Court, at page 20, stated:

"There must be some showing that the absence of counsel would or could have resulted in prejudice to defendant's rights. When there manifestly is not even a possibility of injury, there is no such error as would require vacation of the sentence."

Here, however, appellant had intelligently and competently waived his right to counsel at the time of his arraignment.

In *McKinney v. United States* (C.A., D.C. 1953), 208 F.2d 844, it appears that McKinney at the time of his plea of guilty appeared by counsel, but at the time of sentence his counsel was not there to represent him. The Court held that the matter should be remanded for further proceedings, and stated at page 847:

"If the District Court finds that petitioner in fact waived his right to counsel at the time of sentencing the motion to vacate should be denied. If it finds that there was no such waiver, and that detriment resulted, the motion should be granted. But this does not mean that petitioner must be released or given a new trial. As constitutional standards were met at the time his plea of guilty was entered, he has no reason to complain of that part of the proceedings. If his motion to vacate sentence is granted, he should be brought before the trial court, accompanied by counsel, for the imposition of a new sentence, to be rendered after counsel has been given an opportunity to make all proper representations to the court."

The present case is distinguishable from the *McKinney* case, 208 F.2d 844, in that in the *McKinney* case the accused was represented by counsel at the time he entered his plea. In the instant case the arraigning Court concluded that Davis at the time he was arraigned waived his right to counsel for the entire case. He then entered his plea of guilty and his

conduct subsequent to that time, including up to the date of sentence, indicated that he did not wish the assistance of counsel and that he had waived the same competently, intelligently and voluntarily.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the entire record herein fully supports the findings of fact of the District Court that appellant, Volney Davis, on June 3, 1935, at the time of his arraignment when he entered a plea of guilty, and again on June 7, 1935, at the time of his sentence, that he was first advised by Judge Joyce of his constitutional rights under the Sixth Amendment and that he nevertheless competently, intelligently and understandingly waived such rights to be represented by counsel. He has not sustained the burden to show that he was denied a constitutional right at any stage. The proof shows to the contrary that he did intelligently and competently waive his rights. The findings of the District Court and the order denying appellant's motion, made pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A., Section 2255, is fully supported by the evidence and record herein, is correct, and should be affirmed.

Dated July, 1955.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE E. MACKINNON,
United States Attorney,
ALEX DIM,
Assistant United States Attorney,
District of Minnesota,
Attorneys for Appellee,
221 Federal Courts Building,
St. Paul 2, Minnesota.

Office Memorandum • UNITED

GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

FROM : SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

SUBJECT: VOLNEY DAVIS, was., et al
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPPING

DATE: 7/19/55

Remyairtel 1/18/55.

USA GEORGE E. MAC KINNON, St. Paul, Minnesota, by letter dated 7/18/55 furnished a copy of the printed brief on behalf of the government prepared in connection with the appeal of DAVIS. A copy of this brief is attached for the Bureau's information.

Mr. MAC KINNON further advised that it was believed the oral argument in connection with the appeal would be heard in September, 1955, at St. Louis, Missouri.

The Bureau will be kept advised of further developments.

Enc. (1)

CBH:NJG
(3)

ENCLO. ATTACHED

RECORDED 13

EX-107

JUL 21 1955

64 JUL 27 1955

Copy of brief on behalf of government
prepared in connection with appeal
of DAVIS.

VOLNEY DAVIS, was., et al
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPPING

7-576-15412

August 10, 1955

AIRTEL

SACS, St. Louis
Minneapolis (7-30)

del
VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ET AL.; EDWARD GEORGE BREMMER - VICTIM;
KIDNAPING.

A review of the Bureau file reflects that USA George E. MacKinnon, St. Paul, Minnesota, has advised that he believes the oral argument, in connection with the appeal of Volney Davis, would be heard in the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit at St. Louis, Missouri, in September, 1955.

St. Louis should check with the clerk of the court to ascertain if Davis has filed a brief, in connection with his appeal, from the decision of the US District Court, District of Minnesota, in the case of Volney Davis vs. the United States of America. St. Louis should endeavor to obtain a copy of Davis' brief.

Minneapolis should closely follow this matter with the USA at St. Paul, Minnesota, and keep the Bureau advised of all developments.

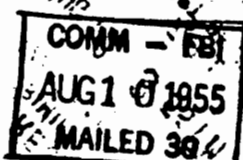
HOOVER

7-576

NOTE:

Davis' motion in US District Court, Minneapolis, for an order vacating and setting aside a life sentence imposed on him 6/7/35 was denied by honorable Gunnar H. Nordbye on 8/11/54. On 10/12/54 Davis filed an appeal. The USA, St. Paul, has advised that the oral arguments in connection with the appeal ~~are~~ tentatively scheduled to be heard in September, 1955.

RJG:glw
(6)



RECORDED-35
EX-107

7-576-15413

16 AUG 11 1955

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____

AUG 15 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: August 17, 1955

FROM : SAC, St. Louis (7-43)

SUBJECT: VOLNEY DAVIS, was., Etal;
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim
KIDNAPING

On August 15, 1955, the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appeals, St. Louis, Missouri, advised the Attorney for VOLNEY DAVIS filed a typewritten brief on June 4, 1955. Submission of a typewritten brief only was permitted in this instance. Only four copies of the brief were filed, three for the Court and one for the Clerk's file. Consequently, there is none available which the St. Louis Office can obtain.

The Docket indicates that the U. S. Attorney at St. Paul, Minnesota filed a brief on July 15, 1955, and a supplement was also filed on the same date. It is suggested that if the Bureau desires a copy of the brief filed by DAVIS' attorney it can be possibly obtained from the U. S. Attorney at St. Paul.

The case of VOLNEY DAVIS vs. the United States of America, #15229, is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 1955, in Division No. 2 of the U. S. Court of Appeals Eighth Circuit at St. Louis.

RUC.

RJA:mlh
(4)

1 cc: Minneapolis (7-30)

RECORDED - 15

27 AUG 19 1955

AUG 23 1955

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

AIRTEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to: DIRECTOR, FBI

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

8/22/55

AIR MAIL

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

VOLNEY DAVIS, was. Etal; EDWARD GEORGE BREMMER - VICTIM.
KIDNAPPING.

ReBuairtel dated 8/10/55.

On 8/22/55, ALEX DIM, AUSA, St. Paul, Minn., advised that appeal of VOLNEY DAVIS would be heard in U. S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit at St. Louis, Mo., on 9/13/55. Mr. DIM stated that he will argue for the Government and that court-appointed attorney ALLAN SURINSKY of Clayton, Mo., will argue for DAVIS.

Mr. DIM stated that VOLNEY DAVIS was granted until 8/23/55, to file a reply brief to the Government brief previously filed.

The MP Office will continue to maintain contact with the Office of the USA, St. Paul, and keep the Bureau advised of all developments in this matter.

HOWARD

Mr. Rosen

SF:pwg
2cc: St. Louis (AM)
(6)

RECORDED-997

27 AUG 24 1955

EX-113

52 AUG 29 1955

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

AIR MAIL

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~TELETYPE~~ message to: DIRECTOR (7-576)

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

9/15/55

DIRECTOR (7-576)

RE: VOLNEY DAVIS, was., ET AL;
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPPING

Re Bureau airtel, 8/10/55.

On 9/14/55, ALEX DIM, AUSA, St. Paul, Minn., advised he argued for the government before the U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, St. Louis, on 9/12/55 in the VOLNEY DAVIS appeal, with ALLEN SURINSKY, Attorney, Clayton, Mo., appointed by Court of Appeals, arguing on behalf of DAVIS. Mr. DIM stated Judges WOODROUGH, JOHNSON, and VOGEL heard the case, and in oral questioning the main point the court concerned itself with was whether DAVIS waived his right to counsel on the date of sentencing. Mr. DIM advised that VOLNEY DAVIS' allegation of mistreatment was not discussed in oral arguments before the court. DIM advised that the court took the case under advisement and estimated that the court would not hand down a decision for approximately three months.

The St. Louis Division is requested to follow and report the decision of the Court of Appeals in this matter.

This case is being placed in a pending-inactive status in the Minneapolis Division.

HOWARD

7-30
SF:sss
(6)

CC: 2 - St. Louis (7-43)(AM)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 119

7-576-15416

10 SEP 20 1955

52 SEP 21 1955 f123

Approved: CPH
Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Mr. Gandy	

AIR TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, ST. LOUIS (7-43)

9-22-55

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

VOLNEY DAVIS, was., ETAL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM;
KIDNAPPINGRe Minneapolis airtel dated 9-15-55, and Bureau-0-1
Form dated 9-15-55.

On 9-21-55, the Clerk of the U. S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that the case had been submitted to that Court on 9-12-55, and that ALLEN SURINSKY, Attorney, Clayton, Missouri, had argued for DAVIS after appointment by the Court of Appeals, and that a representative from the United States Attorney's Office, St. Paul, Minn., had argued for the Government. It was stated that the case was now awaiting a decision in the U. S. Court of Appeals which could be handed down during a period of 3 weeks to 3 months, and that the Clerk's Office would advise as soon as a decision was rendered.

The St. Louis Office will report this decision as soon as it is received.

RJA:naf

(5)

cc - Minneapolis (7-30)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 113

7-576-15417

6 SEP 22 1955

Approved: *JEM*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent *M*

cc Sup

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

RJA:NLN

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, ST. LOUIS (7-43) 10/11/55

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576) A I R T E L

VOLNEY DAVIS, was., Et Al;
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM;
KIDNAPING

Re Minneapolis airtel dated 9/15/55 and St. Louis
airtel dated 9/22/55.

On 10/11/55, the Clerk of the U. S. Court of Appeals,
Eighth Circuit, St. Louis, Mo., advised that a decision in
this case has not yet been reached by the Court of Appeals
and he would advise the St. Louis Office as soon as this
decision has been made.

MILNES

END
(5)

cc - Minneapolis (7-30)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 33

OCT 12 1955

EX-121

F410

Approved: 64 OCT 19 1955 Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

SAC, ST. LOUIS (7-43) 11-7-55 AIRTEL
DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ET AL;
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM;
KIDNAPPING

RESLAIRTEL 10-11-55.

On 11-4-55, the U. S. Court of Appeals, SIMO, confirmed the District Court's decision denying DAVIS' petition.

A copy of the Court's decision is attached for the information of the Bureau together with an article appearing in the ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT of 11-6-55. *File*

MILNES

Enclosure - 2 *ENCL.* 125

1 cc - SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

JEM:wma
(5)

Mr. Rosen

CC. MR. ROSEN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

RECORDED - 47

7-576-15419

11 NOV 9 1955

57-125

66 NOV 29 1955

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Kidnapers Serving Life Loses Appeal

The United States Court of Appeals here Friday rejected a bid by Volney Davis, one-time desperado and member of the Barker-Karpis gang, to be released from federal prison.

Davis, who has served 20 years of a life sentence for kidnaping, claimed he did not know his constitutional rights when he pleaded guilty. He claimed he did not waive them, and that he was led to believe he would receive a lighter term if he pleaded guilty.

The appellate court here yesterday affirmed a ruling made in 1952 turning down Davis' claim.

Davis received the life sentence in St. Paul, Minn., after pleading guilty to conspiracy to kidnap Edward G. Bremer, a St. Paul, Minn. banker, for \$200,000. He was one of several men sentenced to prison in the kidnaping case.

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS.,
ET AL
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER-
VICTIM

Title: KIDNAPPING
BUFILE: 7-576
Character: SLFILE: 7-43

ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Date November 6, 1955

Edition

Author:

7-576-15419

ENCLOSURE

United States Court of Appeals
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

No. 15,229.

Volney Davis,

Appellant,

vs.

United States of America,

Appellee.

Appeal from the
United States Dis-
trict Court for the
District of Minne-
sota.

[November 4, 1955.]

Allen H. Surinsky (appointed by court), for Appellant.

Alex Dim, Assistant United States Attorney, and George
E. MacKinnon, United States Attorney, for Appellee.

Before WOODROUGH, JOHNSON and VOGEL, Circuit Judges.

VOGEL, Circuit Judge.

On December 9, 1952, Volney Davis filed in the United
States District Court for the District of Minnesota a mo-
tion, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2255, to set aside, vacate and

7-576-15411

ENCLOSURE

nullify or reduce a life sentence of imprisonment imposed on him by the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota on June 7, 1935, pursuant to his entry of a plea of guilty to an indictment charging that he and others conspired to kidnap one Edward George Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, and transport him into the State of Illinois. (18 U.S.C. 408(a), now 18 U.S.C. 1201)

Judge Matthew M. Joyce, the judge who had presided at the arraignment of Davis and had sentenced him, denied petitioner's motion on the ground that, "The files and records show conclusively that the petitioner is entitled to no relief * * *". An appeal from such order was taken to this court. In *Davis v. United States*, 210 F.2d 118, this court reversed the order appealed from and remanded the case for the purpose of giving the petitioner an opportunity to be heard on what this court termed the three remaining issues under consideration; namely, the assertions by the petitioner that:

1. He did not know of his constitutional right to counsel;
2. That he did not waive that right;
3. That he was led to believe he would be given a term of years if he entered a plea of guilty.

Upon a remand of the case to the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, Judge Joyce disqualified himself and the hearing was held before Chief Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye. After the mandate from this court was returned to the district court, the petitioner was removed from the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, wherein he was at that time confined, to St. Paul, Minnesota, and two attorneys, Mr. Harlan B. Strong, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Mr. Howard H. Gelb, of St. Paul, Minnesota, were appointed by the court

to represent him. A substantial period of time prior to the commencement of the hearing was allowed to enable appointed counsel to prepare for the hearing. The right to subpoena witnesses at the expense of the United States was accorded the petitioner and all witnesses he desired to call and who could be located were made available to him. The hearing and preparations therefor were apparently held with meticulous care and consideration for the petitioner's rights.

The judgment of conviction based upon Davis' plea of guilty carried with it the presumption of regularity. The burden of proof at the hearing on Davis' present motion rested upon him to establish by a fair preponderance of the evidence that he did not know his constitutional right to counsel or that he did not waive that right or that he was led to believe he would be given a term of years if he entered a plea of guilty. *Johnson v. Zerbst*, (1937), 304 U.S. 458, 468:

"It must be remembered, however, that a judgment can not be lightly set aside by collateral attack, even on *habeas corpus*. When collaterally attacked, the judgment of a court carries with it a presumption of regularity. Where a defendant, without counsel, acquiesces in a trial resulting in his conviction and later seeks release by the extraordinary remedy of *habeas corpus*, the burden of proof rests upon him to establish that he did not competently and intelligently waive his constitutional right to assistance of counsel. If in a *habeas corpus* hearing, he does meet this burden and convinces the court by a preponderance of evidence that he neither had counsel nor properly waived his constitutional right to counsel, it is the duty of the court to grant the writ."

United States v. Morgan, (1954) 346 U.S. 502, 512:

"Of course, the absence of a showing of waiver (of counsel) from the record does not of itself invalidate the

ment. It is presumed the proceedings were correct the burden rests on the accused to show otherwise. *ison v. Zerbst, supra*, at 468; *Adams v. McCann, supra*, 31; cf. *Darr v. Burford*, 339 U.S. 200, 218."

he hearing commenced on July 7, 1954, and was concluded on July 12, 1954. In a detailed opinion, findings of fact and conclusions (Davis v. United States, 123 F.Supp. 407), Judge Nordbye came to the conclusion that:

After due reflection and consideration of all of the evidence, I have come to a sustained and abiding conviction that when Volney Davis entered his plea of guilty on June 3, 1935, he competently, intelligently, and understandingly waived his constitutional rights to be represented by counsel under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, with a full understanding of the implications thereof."

Accordingly denied petitioner's motion. Davis has appealed therefrom.

To read or transcript of the arraignment proceeding held on June 3, 1935, was made other than the clerk's notes, which show the following entry:

"The United States Attorney, Geo. F. Sullivan, being present the defendant Volney Davis appears and is arraigned. Upon being questioned by the Court said defendant stated that he did not desire the advice of counsel and entered a plea of guilty to the charge in the indictment herein."

Whereupon, it is by the Court

Ordered: That sentence be and same hereby is decreed to June 7, 1935."

With reference to June 7, 1935, the clerk's records indicate that Volney Davis appeared "with his Attorney". The latter entry was obviously incorrect and on October 10,

1939, an order amending the judgment was made to show that Volney Davis appeared "without an attorney".

The transcript of the July 7-12, 1954, proceedings before Judge Nordbye, consisting of 715 pages, was furnished to the appellant and his attorneys in this appeal.

The evidence discloses that Edward George Bremer was kidnapped at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934. On January 22, 1935, Volney Davis, the petitioner herein, along with a number of other persons, was indicted for conspiracy to kidnap and transport Bremer, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 408(a), now Section 1201.

Davis was arrested in Kansas City on February 17, 1935, but escaped from custody while being transported from Kansas City to Chicago. On June 1, 1935, Davis was again arrested, this time in Chicago, Illinois, and the following day was taken by airplane from Chicago to Minneapolis. On June 3, 1935, he was arraigned before Judge Joyce. He appeared without counsel, entered a plea of guilty and four days later, on June 7, 1935, was sentenced by Judge Joyce to life imprisonment.

Volney Davis was born January 29, 1902, in Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma. He went to the sixth grade in school, and while there met Freddie Barker, later of the infamous Barker-Karpis gang. When Davis was 17 years old, he was sentenced to the Oklahoma penitentiary to serve three years for theft. In 1922, represented by counsel, he was tried to a jury and found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. He served such sentence from February, 1923, until November, 1932, at which time he received an eight months' leave. Subsequently he received an additional twelve months' extension. Upon obtaining his leave from the penitentiary, he immediately joined up with the

Barker-Karpis gang, receiving money from them from time to time.

After the extended twelve months' period of leave from the Oklahoma penitentiary expired, Davis deliberately failed to return to the penitentiary and became a fugitive. Some of the members of the Barker-Karpis gang, with whom Davis was associated, kidnapped Bremer on January 17, 1934, and transported him to Bensonville, Illinois. He was held for \$200,000.00 ransom, which was subsequently paid and he was released. Two indictments were returned by the grand jury of the District of Minnesota, one charging Davis and others with the crime of conspiracy to kidnap Bremer and transport him to Illinois, and the second charging certain defendants, including Davis, with the substantive offense of kidnapping Bremer.

Davis contends that when he appeared before Judge Joyce on June 3, 1935, for arraignment, he did not know of his constitutional right to counsel, that he did not waive such right and that he was led to believe he would be given a term of years if he entered a plea of guilty. He testified that when he first appeared on June 3, 1935, Judge Joyce asked him if his name was Volney Davis. He replied, "Yes, sir." He claims Judge Joyce then asked, "Have you agreed to enter a plea of guilty?" and he replied, "I would like to know what the maximum sentence is that I could receive for this crime"; that the judge told him, "You could receive up to a life sentence" and Davis then said, "Well, I will enter a plea of guilty to conspiracy"; that the indictment charging conspiracy was read to him and that he thereafter entered a plea of "guilty of conspiracy". He denies that at that time he was asked if he had counsel or was advised of his right to counsel. He claims he pleaded guilty to keep from going back to "isolation" in Oklahoma.

Davis also claims that he was incapable of intelligently and competently waiving his constitutional rights at the arraignment of June 3, 1935, because of alleged happenings between the time of his arrest, June 1st, and the arraignment on June 3rd. He claimed that at the time of his arrest he was struck over the head by something, that a gun was accidentally discharged near him, that he was questioned for long periods and was kept in the closest custody; that on the chartered plane trip from Chicago to Minneapolis they encountered flying difficulties at Madison, Wisconsin, and that these combined experiences left him in such a frame of mind that he could not act completely or intelligently.

From June 3rd to June 7th he was confined in the Ramsey County Jail and at some time between those dates he admits he did talk to a lawyer but that the lawyer did not come to see him regarding his case. He claims there was some casual conversation between them regarding the plea he had entered, but that the lawyer told him he could not withdraw his plea and that he was "sunk". (The lawyer referred to also testified, admitting seeing Davis in jail but denying he told Davis he could not withdraw his plea or that he was "sunk".) Davis claims that on June 7th, when he was returned to court, the judge said to him, "You have entered a plea of guilty to conspiracy," to which he responded, "Yes." He then contends that the judge said, "Do you have a lawyer?" and he responded, "No, I don't need one do I?", and the court thereupon stated, "No, you don't." Thereafter, he contends the court sentenced him to life imprisonment on the plea entered on June 3rd.

At the hearing on petitioner's instant motion, Judge Joyce, the trial judge, also appeared as a witness. His recollection of the case had been refreshed over the years

since 1935 because of correspondence with members of the Davis family and with Davis himself and also by reason of a habeas corpus proceeding instituted by Davis in the Northern District of California in 1940, at which time Davis was confined in Alcatraz.

Judge Joyce testified that on the arraignment date, June 2, 1935, he had asked Davis if he had a lawyer and Davis responded in the negative. He next asked him if he had funds with which to hire a lawyer and told him if he did not, a lawyer would be appointed by the court without cost to him. Judge Joyce testified that Davis stated he did not want a lawyer but wanted the conspiracy indictment read to him. After Judge Joyce was examined by counsel, the record indicates the following:

"The Court: Mr. Gelb, I am going to ask Judge Joyce a question. You feel free to object if you think it is objectionable.

When Mr. Davis was before you on June 3rd and when you had the colloquy with him, as you have stated, regarding the services of counsel and when, you contend, he stated he didn't want counsel, was it your opinion from your observation of him and the way he answered the questions that he knowingly and intelligently waived the service of counsel?

The Witness: He certainly did.

Mr. Gelb: For the record I want to object to the question and the answer to that question on the ground that it calls for a conclusion of the witness and the witness is not competent to testify to that type of question since it goes to the very essence of the question at issue."

Thereafter the objection was overruled.

Judge Joyce's testimony was substantially corroborated by a number of additional witnesses, including newspaper

reporters, court attaches and Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Davis' testimony in the main stands unsupported.

Davis' testimony that on June 3, 1935, he was not told of his constitutional right to counsel also loses force from the fact that the record indicates that some of his co-defendants in the same case, but appearing at a different time, had counsel appointed for them by Judge Joyce.

There is also substantial testimony in the record to the effect that Davis told F. B. I. Agents before he went into court for the arraignment that he was going to enter a plea of guilty to the conspiracy charge but not to the indictment charging him with actual kidnapping, that the F. B. I. "had the goods" on him and that it would do him no good to fight, that he had some money but wanted it to go to his parents.

That Davis knew what he was doing and knew that he could receive a life sentence is indicated from a letter written to his family on June 3, 1935, subsequent to entering a plea to conspiracy. In the first paragraph of that letter, Government's Exhibit 11, Davis stated as follows:

"At last I am in a position where I can write to you all again. And I am sure glad that I can for it has been awful to be running around over the country and not being able to write to the only ones in this world that really love me. *I am here in jail and have entered a plea of guilty to conspiring in this case.* I guess you have read about it in the papers. I will be sentenced on Friday this week, *I don't know what I will get but I expect it will be a life sentence.* I guess I will be sent to the Government prison out in California, but before I go there I will be held for thirty days in some prison here." (Emphasis supplied.) In the face of this and his own testimony that he was advised by the court at his arraignment that the sentence

could be "up to life", Davis contends that he did not know the range of allowable punishments. He cites *Von Moltke v. Gillies*, (1947) 332 U.S. 708, which outlines the safeguards courts are to employ when dealing with waivers of counsel but does not negate the necessity of the petitioner proving his case.

Judge Nordbye's conclusion " * * * that when Volney Davis entered his plea of guilty on June 3, 1935, he competently, intelligently and understandingly waived his constitutional rights to be represented by counsel under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States with a full understanding of the implications thereof" is consequently supported amply in the record and must be sustained by this court. Likewise, Davis' claim that he was led to believe that he would be given a term of years if he entered a plea of guilty is not sustained and there is ample evidence to justify the conclusion of the trial court that Davis knew he could receive up to a life sentence and that he actually expected that the sentence would be for life.

There remains in the case only the question of whether or not Davis waived his right to counsel at the time of sentencing, June 7, 1935. A defendant is entitled to be represented by counsel at any stage of the criminal proceedings against him, including the occasion upon which he is sentenced. Counsel may be of great benefit to a defendant at the time of sentencing, particularly through pointing out to the sentencing court extenuating circumstances which might justify a lesser sentence than would otherwise be imposed or assisting the defendant in other ways. Testifying with reference to what occurred on June 7, 1935, the date of sentence, Judge Joyce, in answer to the question as to whether or not the defendant had a

lawyer, replied, "No, he did not have a lawyer. He said he didn't want one so *I took that as definite.*" (Emphasis supplied.) Judge Nordbye, in his opinion, does not make specific reference to the situation as of June 7, 1935, but by his finding regarding the knowledge of right to and waiver of counsel as of June 3rd and the denial of Davis' petition, it is obvious that he inferred an overall waiver of consent by Davis with reference to all subsequent proceedings. We think that conclusion is justified. Further, Davis failed utterly in carrying the burden of proving that there had not been a waiver. We have here an experienced criminal under sentence by another court to life imprisonment for first-degree murder, indicating at the time of his arraignment knowledge of his rights and his desire to waive them and to get it over by a plea of guilty. If that waiver was made competently, intelligently and with a full understanding of his rights, we can see no reason why the court at each subsequent proceedings should go through the mere ceremony of again inquiring if the defendant knew his rights and was then again willing to waive them.

The evidence discloses and Judge Nordbye has found that on June 3, 1935, Davis was apprised of his constitutional rights and competently, intelligently and understandingly waived such rights. It would be straining human credulity to say that he did not possess the same knowledge and intelligence four days later on June 7th. The sentencing of Davis on June 7th was but an extension of the arraignment proceedings. It could have followed immediately and no question could have been raised as to its propriety. Undoubtedly the trial judge, in deferring sentence until June 7th, did so in order that he could receive a pre-sentence report from the probation officer. The fact that the sentencing took place four days after the arraignment could create a need for further inquiry only if

something transpired in the interim which justified such further inquiry, such as a request by Davis for counsel and advice when he appeared for sentencing. Davis made no request and made no statement, and accordingly Judge Joyce was entirely justified in taking his prior refusal of counsel as "definite". There was indeed an implied waiver of counsel as to any proceedings subsequent to June 3, 1935. If this were not true, it would mean that in all criminal proceedings where the defendant competently waived the right to counsel and nothing happened in the meantime, such as an unreasonable lapse of time, newly discovered evidence which might require or justify advice of counsel, new charges brought, a request from the defendant, or similar circumstances, he would nevertheless have to be interrogated in the same fashion on each subsequent step therein. That would be neither good law nor good sense.

We accordingly conclude that the trial court was correct in holding that Davis failed to sustain the burden of proof and that there was ample evidence to justify the court's conclusion that Davis competently, intelligently and understandingly waived his constitutional right to counsel and that he was not led to believe that he would be given a term of years if he entered a plea of guilty.

This court is indebted to counsel who represented the petitioner in the district court and to counsel who represented the petitioner on the appeal here for their services which were, of course, without fee.

The order appealed from is affirmed.

A true copy.

Attest:

Clerk, U. S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *FR*

DATE: 1-3-56

FROM : F. L. Price *FLP*TIME OF CALLS: 4:30 p.m., 12-30-55
9:40 a.m., 1-3-56SUBJECT: .45 CALIBER THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN,
SERIAL NO. 5096;
NATIONAL STOLEN PROPERTY FILE

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

1/11 - F.D.

Mr. Oscar Neal, Chief, Firearms Section, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, Telephone Code 165, Extension 2500, called to request check of captioned weapon in National Stolen Property File.

Mr. Murphy, Service Unit, made the requested check and advised there was a prior record for the serial number in Bureau file 7-576, serial 13679.

Review of that serial reflected that information concerning the sale of submachine guns was obtained by Bureau in connection with a kidnaping investigation and that among the guns was one bearing the serial number 5096 sold, together with four others, to E. J. Mattlitz, New Orleans, Louisiana, 11-19-27.

Upon call back, Mr. Neal was advised that Bureau files reflected the sale of the weapon originally to Mattlitz in 1927. At the same time, Mr. Neal advised that a .45 caliber Thompson submachine gun, Model 1921, was registered with Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, 11-2-34, by Security Loan Office, 134 South Rampart Street, New Orleans. He further advised that the current inquiry originated from a request for a record check by his New Orleans Office.

ACTION:

None. For information.

RECORDED - 22

8 JAN 4 1956

INDEXED - 22

EX-126

FILE REVIEW

JPJM:ekds

(2)

64 JAN 13 1956

PREVIOUS RECORD OF 7-576-13679
IN
Added to E. J. Mattlitz in file from 7-576-13679

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: January 17, 1956

FROM : Mr. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MRS. VADA HOWARD
 (MRS. VADA NYBERG,
 MRS. WARREN W. HOWARD)
 INFORMATION CONCERNING

Tolson ✓
 Boardman ✓
 Nichols ✓
 Belmont ✓
 Harbo ✓
 Mohr ✓
 Parsons ✓
 Rosen ✓
 Tamm ✓
 Sizoo ✓
 Winterrowd ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Holloman ✓
 Gandy ✓

By referral from the Director's office in the afternoon of January 16, 1956, SA Heim of the Crime Records Section interviewed Mrs. Vada Howard, 112 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Mrs. Howard threatened dire action unless she was immediately given the reward money she claimed for giving the Bureau information leading directly to the apprehension of Alvin Karpis on May 1, 1936, New Orleans, Louisiana. During the interview, Mrs. Howard, a middle-aged woman, was very distraught and at times hysterical in her statements. She exhibited a letter from Mr. George Burton, SAC of our Houston Office, dated in October, 1954, in which she was advised that she had been told in an interview at the Bureau Headquarters on June 30, 1939, that we could be of no assistance to her and that our position in this matter was final and unalterable. She screamed that she had never been at the Bureau Headquarters in 1939 or any other time and that the FBI owed her the money and she was determined that she was going to have it.

Mrs. Howard asked that the facts of the case be checked. She said she would be in Washington for a day and would again contact the Bureau. Upon departure she made many incoherent statements concerning her claim, the inability of Mr. Burton, the Bureau and Mr. Hoover to recognize the facts and hoped that the Bureau would see it her way.

Bureau file 7-576-15105X1 reflects that Mrs. Howard, then Mrs. Nyberg, was interviewed on June 30, 1939, at the Bureau by Mr. Balch who was aware of the details of her case at the time of interview. In December, 1935, Mrs. Nyberg did recognize Karpis in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and a few days later notified Chief of Police Joseph Wakelin and allegedly offered information concerning Karpis if Wakelin would divide the reward with her. Chief Wakelin knew about Karpis' whereabouts and laughed at Mrs. Nyberg. Subsequently, Karpis was apprehended in New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 1, 1936, by the Director and FBI Agents. Mrs. Nyberg was not interviewed by Bureau Agents until May, 1938, in connection with the case of harboring Karpis at Hot Springs. Subsequently she did testify as a Government witness at the time of the prosecution of Chief of Police

cc - Mr. Holloman
 LJH:rcw
 (4)

RECORDED - 54
 INDEXED - 54

7-576-15105X1
 13 JAN 24 1956

EX. - 121

LJH

Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

January 17, 1956

67c
Wakelin. These facts were presented to Mrs. Nyberg by Mr. Balch, and it was pointed out that, of course, her information had nothing whatever to do with Karpis' actual apprehension. It was explained to her that her information and testimony pertained to the prosecution and harboring of Karpis and that no reward whatever had been offered in this connection. Although disappointed, Mrs. Nyberg was reconciled to the facts given by Mr. Balch. Bureau files reflect that on October 21, 1938, Hot Springs, Arkansas, police officers not involved in the harboring case advised the Bureau that Mrs. Nyberg had reputation as a "shakedown artist" [REDACTED]

In September, 1954, Mrs. Howard (formerly Mrs. Nyberg), in communication with the Houston Office, again claimed the Karpis reward. At this time the Bureau advised SAC Burton at Houston of the facts in the case and told him to refresh her memory regarding the explanation given her at the Bureau in June, 1939, and that this was the Bureau's final and unalterable position and that we could be of no assistance to her in the matter. (7-576-15400)

In telephonic contact with Mrs. Howard in the morning of January 17, 1956, SA Heim reiterated the Bureau's position. Mrs. Howard became enraged and began shouting that she was still convinced she deserved the reward.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

MM

112 3 SA WMS

F B I

Date: May 1, 1956

Transmit the following message via AIRTELAIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ETAL

EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING -

Re St. Louis airtel to Bureau dated 11-7-55.

On 4-30-56, ALEX DIM, Assistant U.S. Attorney, St. Paul, Minn., advised that on 4-23-56, the U.S. Supreme Court denied VOLNEY DAVIS writ of certiorari. CLOSED.

HOWARD

END

3-Bureau
1-St. Louis (7-43)(AM)(Info.)
1-Minneapolis
SF:MAT
(5)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 83

7-576-12
25 MAY 3 1956

EX-108

MAY 3 5 11 PM '56
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
REC'D - FBI

MAY 3 15 21 PM '56

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FBI - MINNEAPOLISApproved: 1157

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

MAY 8 1956

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

MAY 2, 1956

TELETYPE

DEFERRED

RECORDED - 15

EX-109

7-576-15423
SAC, DETROIT

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMMER DASH
VICTIM, KIDNAPING. TELEGRAM DATED MAY ONE LAST RECEIVED
FROM DE PD REQUESTING INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER JOSEPH
P. MORAN, FORMER I.O. NUMBER ONE/THREE TWO, WANTED.
A.O. NUMBER ONE TWO SEVEN NINE DATED SEPTEMBER SEVEN,
FORTY NINE, CANCELLED I.O. INASMUCH AS PROCESS WAS
DISMISSED AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, ON JULY TWENTY TWO,
FORTY NINE. ADVISE DE PD IMMEDIATELY RE DISMISSAL OF
PROCESS, AT SAME TIME OBTAIN ANY PERTINENT DATA RE MORAN
AND FURNISH SAME TO BUREAU AND MP.

HOOVER

CC - 1 - MINNEAPOLIS (AMSD)

7-576

NOTE FOR SAC, MINNEAPOLIS:

Review your file for purpose of determining
whether advisable to interview Moran in the event pertinent
data developed as to his whereabouts.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 2 1956

TELETYPE

MAY 14 1956

COPIES DESTROYED

MAR 26 1965

RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FBI

MAY 5 5 28 AM '56

RECEIVED

is _____
man _____
int _____
is _____
owd _____
oom _____
in _____

Hal [signature]

[signature] [signature] [signature]

tw

1-120 (1-5-56)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

5-2, 1956

IDENTIFICATION

Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Anderson
Mr. Engert
Mr. Harris
Mr. O'Connell
Mr. Creighton
Mr. Barnes
Mr. Blase
Mrs. Colliflower
Miss Dawson
Mr. Deiss
Mr. Granger
Miss LoMedico
Mr. Masters
Mrs. McNeely
Mr. Nolan
Mr. Norton
Mr. Page
Miss Phillips
Mr. Ritz
Mr. Row

Mrs. Stotler
Miss Oakes
Mrs. Poland
Miss Hines
Photo Lab

BUREAU

Director
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Miss Gandy
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Nease
Mr. Renneberger
Mr. M. A. Jones
Chief Clerk's Office
Personnel Files
Teletype

Please see me
Please phone me
Per Conversation
For appropriate action
For your information
Please note and return
Please file special

M. J. Hays
Room 5226

This was brought in by Metropolitan Police

Dept. Note IO case. Pls. handle.

L. Oakes
C. L. TROTTER
Room 4131 - Ext. 2222

17 K4949 FILE 13

PD DETROIT MICHIGAN

MAY 1-56

FBI WASHINGTON D C

ADVISE IF STILL WANTED JOSEPH P MORAN IDENTIFICATION ORDER NUMBER
1232 DATED 3RE SEPT 1934 WANTED YOUR BUREAU

PD DETROIT MICH

GWD 140 PM

RP PGH 1650 EDST / ELWELL /

*Not in Int. file
on attached slip.*

RECORDED - 15

EX-109

7-576 - 15423
MAY 8 1956

*Tel Detroit
cc Memphis
438.*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

5/3/56

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

AIR TEL

FROM: SAC, Detroit (7-25)

TO: Director, FBI

ALVIN KARPIS, was., et al - EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

REurtel, 5/2/56.

Inspector DWYER, Identification Bureau, Detroit PD, is reviewing his records for stop notices. He merely desired to determine if stop notice should be continued on JOSEPH P. MORAN, IO. 1232. Detroit PD advised of cancellation.

BROWN

3 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Detroit

JEI:SMC
(4)

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tamm

cc: Mr. Tamm

SE-5

7-576-15424

MAY 7 1956

RECORDED-11

EX-120

AIRTEL

MAY 15 1956

Approved: CUB
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6-1

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

6-*[Signature]*

Airtel

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to: Director, FBI
FBI, Minneapolis (7-30) 5/14/56

Director, FBI (7-576)

ALVIN KARPIS, was., ETAL;
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

Re Bureau teletype dated 5/2/56 to Detroit regarding
JOSEPH P. MORAN.

Instant file reflects MORAN is presumed to be
dead and instant file, which contains 72 volumes, will not be
reviewed unless the Detroit Office obtains information indicating
MORAN is alive.

Detroit should expedite results of inquiry made
at Detroit Police Department.

HOWARD

3 - Bureau (AM)
2 - Detroit (AM)
1 - Minneapolis
RNP:smb
(6)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 94

EX-108

7-576-15425

547
55 MAY 23 1956
Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

airtel
Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to:

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

5/21/56

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

ALVIN KARPIS, was., ETAL;
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

Re Minneapolis airtel 5/14/56 regarding JOSEPH P.
MORAN.

In view of information appearing in Detroit airtel
to Bureau dated 5/3/56, and Detroit airtel to Minneapolis
dated 5/15/56, instant case is being again closed.

CLOSED.

HOWARD

③ Bureau (AM)
1 Minneapolis

RNP:deb
(4)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 122

7-576-15426

25 MAY 22 1956

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

18 MAY 25 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

SUBJECT: LEONARD J. HANKINS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: October 30, 1956

There has been considerable correspondence concerning captioned individual exchanged between the Louisville and Minneapolis Divisions of the Bureau.

On 10-15-56, HANKINS appeared at the Minneapolis Division where he was interviewed at his request. He stated at the beginning, "We have a lot to talk about" and indicated he had information of value to the FBI. His conversation, however, was pointless and proceeded in disconnected manner over a variety of references to individuals in the Twin Cities, some of whom are connected apparently with his project to publish a book, to persons presently in the Minnesota State Prison, and to notorious characters of the early thirties with whom he had had acquaintance and association. HANKINS made vague and sweeping allegations of criminal conspiracy against CHARLES A. WARD, head of the Brown and Bigelow Company, St. Paul, Minn. but could or would not be specific when asked exactly what he knew, or suspected, were WARD's objectives, associates and methods in the alleged conspiracy. It became apparent that HANKINS was referring in almost the entire portion of his conversation to persons and activities he was familiar with prior to his conviction and imprisonment in 1932 and with which he became acquainted during his subsequent nineteen years of imprisonment.

A review of memo from Minneapolis Division to Bureau dated 9-12-44, captioned "BREKID" reflects that information in possession of HANKINS was quite fully obtained in an interview on 9-6-44.

In view of the above, the interview was not prolonged and no effort was made to seek further contacts with HANKINS. He advised he would probably be in the Twin Cities for another week or ten days before returning to Kentucky and while here was residing at the Ryan Hotel in St. Paul.
RUC.

2-Bureau
1-Louisville (137-71)
2-Minneapolis (cc: 73-107 - WARD)
ACS:MAT
(5)

INDEXED - 14
RECORDED - 14

NOV 3 1956

67 NOV 8 1956

AIRTEL

8/3/56

AIR MAIL

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

LOUISVILLE (137-71)

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

LEONARD J. HANKINS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re airtel 7/18/56 Minneapolis to Bureau. 63-3044-3

After several unsuccessful attempts, HANKINS was located near Dawson Springs, Ky. on 7/31/56. He advised that robbery occurring 7/15/56 had no connection with Minneapolis situation and was perpetrated by local boys, all of whom were known to him, one being a cousin. HANKINS stated he has leased his place of business near Dawson Springs and will vacate about 8/10/56. He intends to proceed with his wife to Minneapolis, arriving there on or about 8/15/56. He stated firm intention to appear at Minneapolis Office on or about above date, where he will furnish previously mentioned information. HANKINS prefers to handle in this manner and assured agent he will appear as noted; previous appearance cancelled in view of business pressure requiring his return to Dawson Springs before anticipated.

GEARTY
END

3-Bureau (7-576)

2-Minneapolis (7-30)

1-Louisville (137-71)

ASW:fsm

(6)

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

AUG 3 2 14 PM '56

RECEIVED

RECEIVED
AUG 3 2 14 PM '56

NOT RECORDED

194 AUG 17 1956

314
63 AUG 22 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols *W*

DATE: November 28, 1956

FROM : *213* Mr. A. Jones *6 HVIN*

SUBJECT:

Barker-Karpis Gang

There are attached excerpts concerning the above-captioned case taken from "The FBI Story, A Report to the People," by Don Whitehead published by Random House, 1956. These excerpts are from page(s) 107-109, 335 of the book.

The full text of the book may be found in the FBI Library.

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

7-576-✓
NOT RECORDED
MAR 11 1957

66 *BY* 12 1957CRIMINAL
ED

Behind Hoover's bitter assaults on lax and corrupt law enforcement was his knowledge of gang operations, such as those of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang, whose members killed ten persons, wounded four and obtained almost \$1,000,000 in cash, securities and other property from 1931 to 1936. The worst members of this gang were paroled

*Excerpt from page 107 of
"The FBI Story, A Report
to the People" by Don Whitehead*

7-5-76-✓

convicts and often the criminals of this gang and others found protection in cities where the police conveniently failed to recognize the faces of hunted men even when their photographs and wanted notices were posted at police headquarters.

In the parade of criminals, Alvin Karpis in time was labeled "Public Enemy Number 1"—wanted for the \$100,000 extortion-kidnaping of William Hamm, Jr., of St. Paul, Minnesota, and on local charges of murder. He was known in the underworld as "Old Creepy." Hoover frequently referred to Karpis as a "rat," and finally this sneering barb riled Karpis. He sent word to Hoover that he intended to kill him just as FBI agents had killed Kate ("Ma") Barker and her son, Fred, in a 1935 machine-gun-and-rifle duel in Florida.⁸

Hoover issued instructions that when agents received any information on Karpis' whereabouts, he was to be notified so that he might take charge of the case. FBI agents mentally tagged Karpis as "the Boss's man."

Hoover thought his chance had come in March, 1936. He received word in New York that Karpis was hiding somewhere in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Hoover flew by special plane into Washington, where a squad of agents joined him at the airport. So many agents at Headquarters wanted to go along that Hoover finally had to order some of them back to their jobs. Hoover and his men waited in the plane at the airport for further word from Hot Springs. But the disappointing report came that Karpis had escaped—apparently tipped by local police that the G-Men were closing in.

Had Karpis been captured by Hoover in March, the FBI Director would have been spared at least part of the much-publicized grilling in April by Senator K. D. McKellar of Tennessee in a hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee.

McKellar questioned Hoover about his background and experience in the field of criminal investigations, and then placed emphasis on the fact that the Director had not himself made an arrest. The question was much the same as asking a commanding general why he wasn't down in a foxhole with a rifle rather than being at his command post.

The implications by the Senator were plain enough: the Director of the FBI wasn't much as a crime hunter because he'd never actually made an arrest.⁹

Hoover held his temper, although his face was flushed with anger. He said nothing to McKellar about the near arrest of Karpis the month before or the orders which had been given that he was to make the arrest. Hoover felt that his personal courage had been questioned publicly, with the implied accusation that he was asking his men to face dangers he would not face himself.

*Page 108 of "The FBI Story,
A Report to the People" by
Don Whitehead*

Hoover was in New York on the afternoon of April 30, when he received word that Karpis had been trailed from Hot Springs, Arkansas, to Corpus Christi, Texas, and then to New Orleans, where he was reported living in an apartment house on Canal Street. He flew to New Orleans with a squad of special agents. The local police weren't notified. No chances were taken on a "leak" flushing Karpis into flight.

As Hoover and his men approached the apartment building by automobile, Karpis and a companion unexpectedly walked out the door. For a few tense seconds the FBI cars were blocked by a man riding a white horse up the street, then the horse moved out of the way. Karpis climbed into his automobile. Hoover ran to the left side of the car and Assistant Director Earl Connelley to the right side. Hoover reached into the car and grabbed Karpis before he could reach for a rifle on the back seat.

"Put the handcuffs on him," Hoover ordered. But no one had remembered to bring handcuffs. An agent pulled off his necktie and tied Karpis' hands behind him. "Old Creepy," all the bravado gone and ashen with fear, was put aboard a special plane to be flown to St. Paul, Minnesota, to stand trial for the Hamm kidnaping.

The plane had been air-borne only a short time when Hoover noticed that Karpis' face was white.

"What's the matter? Are you airsick?" Hoover asked.

"Go ahead and do it!" Karpis blurted. "Get it over with."

"What are you talking about?"

Karpis looked at Hoover wildly. "I know what you're going to do. You guys are going to throw me out of this plane and then say it was an accident."

"Don't be a fool," Hoover snapped. "We don't do things like that. You're going to St. Paul and stand trial. Nobody's going to hurt you while you're with us."

Karpis had recognized Hoover when he first saw him.

"How did you know who I was?" Hoover asked.

Karpis replied: "I saw a picture of you after you caught a sail fish. Your luck is better than mine. I've been trying to catch one for three years."

It was a rough flight. When the plane stopped at Kansas City to refuel, the passengers got sandwiches and copies of the morning papers. One headline said: "Karpis Robs Bank in Michigan." Karpis laughed. "This is one time I've got a perfect alibi."

Karpis was given a life sentence for the Hamm kidnaping.

Thus the boss of the G-Men made his first arrest. Then he followed it up with others equally spectacular.

*Excerpt from page 109 of
"The FBI Story, A Report to the
People" by Don Whitehead*

⁸ "Ma" Barker, born in Missouri Ozark country, raised her four sons to become criminals. She taught them marksmanship by setting tin cans on fence posts and encouraging target practice. She dominated their every move, becoming the "brains" of the gang. She and Fred died in the 1935 battle with FBI agents; Arthur, sentenced to a life term after his capture by the FBI in Chicago, was killed in 1939 while trying to escape from Alcatraz; Herman, the eldest, committed suicide in 1927 rather than submit to arrest on murder charges; Lloyd was prevented from becoming a member of the gang because he had been sent to Leavenworth Penitentiary in 1932 on a twenty-five-year mail robbery sentence. After his release from prison, he was employed as the assistant manager of a grill in Colorado. He was killed by his wife in 1949.

*Excerpt from page 335 of
"The FBI Story, A Report
to the People" by Don Whitehead*

November 1, 1957

Airtel

SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

BREKID

Your attention is directed to the report of SA Sigurd Flaata, at Minneapolis, dated 2/12/54, captioned, "Alvin Karpis, was (Deceased); Arthur R. Barker, was (Deceased); Volney Davis, was; Et Al; Edward George Bremmer - Victim Kidnaping." You will note that quoted title reflects Alvin Karpis as being deceased, which statement is incorrect. You should obtain the explanations of SA Flaata concerning this error and submit them with your recommendations to the Bureau promptly. 7

HOOVER

7-576

JRB:mm
(4)

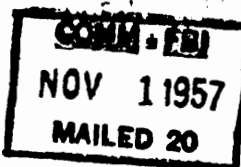
EX-116

RECORDED-84

7-576-15428
23 NOV 4 1957

NOTE:

Referenced report was prepared in connection with a petition filed by Volney Davis for release on habeas corpus and report deals entirely with this matter and does not concern Karpis. Numerous other reports and communications in file between 2/18/54 and 3/9/54 make reference to report of SA Flaata and carry Karpis as deceased in the title. SA Flaata assigned as Alternate Senior Resident Agent, St. Paul, Minnesota.



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: November 7, 1957

FROM : G. A. NEASE

SUBJECT: "WIDE, WIDE WORLD"
NBC PRODUCTION
DECEMBER 22, 1957

Tolson ✓
Boardman ✓
Belmont ✓
Mohr ✓
Nease ✓
Parsons ✓
Rosen ✓
Tamm ✓
Trotter ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Holloman ✓
Gandy ✓

ALVIN KARPIS

Ted Rogers, NBC producer, called Mr. DeLoach from Jim Bennett's office at 10:50 A.M. this morning. Rogers stated that he has been successful in selling the "Karpis Story" to Bennett. Rogers talked with Warden McInerney of Alcatraz last night and McInerney will arrange for the tape recording with Karpis. Rogers stated there is now a complete meeting of the minds regarding this matter. He specifically requested certain further information regarding the Karpis case and we are getting this ready for him. This will be turned over to Rogers at the graduation exercises tomorrow morning, 11-8-57.

Rogers and Azine are leaving immediately following the graduation exercises tomorrow for San Francisco where they will take shots of Alcatraz. They will return to Washington on November 15, at which time they desire to tour the FBI Academy and the ranges at Quantico. The Identification Division will also be included in the day's tour. Messrs. Kemper and DeLoach will handle this matter. On November 22, 1957, Rogers and Azine will return to Washington for a ten-day stay, at which time the script will be written.

ACTION:

We will continue to insist upon complete control and approval of this entire matter.

I think my must watch this carefully as Bennett is quite a schemer

cc-Mr. Tamm
cc-Mr. Jones
cc-Mr. Kemper
cc-Mr. Murphy
GAD:jmr

52 NOV 18 1957

NOT RECORDED
76 NOV 15 1957

7-576
CRIME REC.

ORIGINAL FILED IN

SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

November 18, 1957

Director, FBI (7-576)

en
BREKID

Re Minneapolis airtel 11/4/57.

If such action has not already been taken, advise the U. S. Attorney, St. Paul, Minnesota, by letter of necessary correction in title of reports in this case furnished to that office. Sulet when action taken. Reairtel did not include Washington Field in offices notified of necessary correction. Washington Field correct report of SA Thomas J. Jenkins, dated 2/25/54, and Washington Field letter same date, which referred to Minneapolis letter 2/19/54, to delete the word "deceased" following the name of Alvin Karpis in title of rerep. Any other serials in Washington Field file carrying this designation after Karpis' name should be corrected.

2 - Washington Field (7-63)

JRB:jlp
(6) *jlp*

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____



REK

RECORDED-18

EX-132

7-576-15429

22 NOV 19 1957

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 11/25/57

FROM: SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

SUBJECT: BREKID

ReBulet 11/18/57.

The United States Attorney at St. Paul, Minnesota, has been advised of the necessary corrections in titles of the reports submitted to him in this case by letter dated November 25, 1957.

2 - Bureau
1 - Minneapolis
JEM:RSK
(3)

RECORDED-87

EX-131

2 NOV 27 1957

70 DEC 2 1957

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Clayton
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

AIRTEL
Transmit the following Teletype message to: 11/4/57

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)
FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)
RE: BREKID

ReBuairtel 11/1/57.

There is attached a memorandum of explanation prepared by SA SIGURD FLAATA concerning the title outlined in the report of that agent dated 2/12/54 captioned "ALVIN KARPIS, was (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was, (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was; ETAL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM - KIDNAPING".

I have examined the file in this case, and it appears that the error attributed to SA FLAATA in rerep was not repeated in subsequent communications prepared by him in this matter. Specifically, it is noted that his report of 2/12/54 indicated that KARPIS was deceased, whereas a report prepared by him on 2/25/54 did not so reflect.

A copy of this communication is being directed to the offices receiving copies of SA FLAATA's report with the suggestion that the "deceased" be removed from the title.

Subsequent communications from Denver reflect that the "deceased" appears in the title of the report. Therefore, a copy is also being designated for Denver.

It is suggested that the above be considered an error of form. Appropriate notations will be made in the error folder of SA FLAATA to be considered in his over-all performance report. No further administrative action is being recommended.

3 ENCLOSURE
7-110
(Enc. 3)
3 - Bureau
1 - Denver
1 - Chicago
1 - Cincinnati
1 - Kansas City
1 - Miami
1 - New York
1 - Philadelphia
1 - St. Louis
1 - San Antonio
1 - San Diego
1 - San Francisco
1 - Savannah
1 - Minneapolis

Approved: J. B. S. Special Agent in Charge
68 DEC 10 1957

Sent: 11 NOV 6 1957 Per: [Signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: 11/4/57

FROM : SA SIGURD FLAATA

SUBJECT: BREKID

ReBuairtel 11/1/57, and referenced report of SA SIGURD FLAATA at Minneapolis dated 2/12/54 captioned "ALVIN KARPIS, was (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, WAS, (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was; ETAL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM - KIDNAPING."

It is noted that the title of referenced report inadvertently carries ALVIN KARPIS as being deceased. A review of the Minneapolis file reflects that subsequent reports and communications prepared by me on 2/25/54, 4/23/54, 5/10/54 and 5/21/54 do not so reflect.

SF:RSK
(4)
7-30

7-576-15431

CLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: February 13, 1958

FROM : G. A. NEASE

SUBJECT: KIDNAPING OF EDWARD GEORGE BREMER
JANUARY 17, 1934
CASSIUS MC DONALD
 (Bufile 7-576)

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Nease _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 Clayton _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

Don O'Connor, Washington representative of the Detroit Times who is very friendly with the Bureau (National 8-3914), telephoned this morning with reference to above-captioned case. He wanted to know whether the \$200,000 paid as ransom had all been recovered, whether we obtained the serial numbers at the time, and do we currently have a listing of such numbers.

Bremer was kidnaped the morning of January 17, 1934, from a St. Paul, Minnesota, street. The evening of February 6, 1934, \$200,000 in ransom money, made up in five and ten dollar bills, was paid by Walter Magee, a friend of the family. Bremer was released about 8:00 PM, February 7, 1934, at Rochester, Minnesota. On February 9, 1934, we began distribution of the printed list containing the serial numbers of all the currency comprising the ransom. First identifiable ransom money turned up on April 23, 1934, at the Uptown State Bank in Chicago, Illinois. In September, 1934, it was known the kidnaping gang still possessed approximately \$100,000 of the original ransom money. William Harrison and Harry Sawyer were designated by the mob to exchange it. They started negotiations with Cassius McDonald, then 55, who for 25 years had been engaged in gambling activities in Chicago, Detroit and Havana. He maintained a residence at Trombley Road and Lake St. Clair, Detroit, Michigan. He owned considerable gambling interests in Havana. Our investigation disclosed that on September 5, 1934, he went to Cuba, contacted a brokerage firm stating he had a quantity of small denomination American bills with which he desired to purchase Cuban gold. He introduced himself as Mr. O'Brien when exchanging \$18,000 of the ransom money for \$14,000 in Cuban gold exchange which he later exchanged for 14 \$1,000 bills. (These bills were later identified as those in the cottage occupied by Fred and Ma Barker who were shot and killed at Lake Weir, Oklawaha, Florida, January 16, 1935, by Special Agents of this Bureau.) On September 10, 1934, McDonald exchanged

cc - Mr. Boardman
 cc - Mr. Rosen
 cc - Mr. Jones
 REW:ejp
 (5)

REF-61

16 FEB 21 1958

52 FEB 24 1958

7-576-15432

7-576

O'Brien

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson:

\$72,000 in ransom money for larger bills through the brokerage firm operating through the Chase National Bank in Havana.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT:

I had Wick call O'Connor this afternoon after we obtained the specific facts above to advise him that we had no information that all \$200,000 of the Bremer ransom money had been recovered. O'Connor asked if he could obtain a list of the ransom money and Wick told him this would not be possible but that we would be very glad to check any bills against the list.

O'Connor then leveled with Wick and said that his paper had a story, not yet printed, relating to a large cache of money either in possession of or traceable to Cassius McDonald of Detroit. He asked again for the list and Wick told him that it would be quite a job to reproduce this for him but suggested that we would be willing certainly to check against our list any serial numbers in the possession of the Detroit Times believed identical with the Bremer ransom money. O'Connor said he would call his paper and determine what to do. O'Connor called Wick a few minutes later at 2:30 PM advising that he had talked via long distance telephone with Mr. Jim Trainor, City Editor of the Detroit Times, who suggested that the FBI might send an Agent over to see him to discuss the story and tell us what this is all about. O'Connor said the Detroit Times would do this provided the FBI would promise the Times an "exclusive" on the story. Wick told O'Connor that this would not be necessary for the reason that the Detroit Times apparently already had the story and that certainly we would respect any confidence imposed upon us.

The serial listing of the ransom bills is contained in Bureau file 7-576-193 and is being sent to Mr. Wick's office. (attached)

COURT ACTION AGAINST MC DONALD:

William Weaver, Harry Sawyer and Cassius McDonald were tried in Federal Court at St. Paul, Minnesota, beginning January 6, 1936. McDonald claimed he did not know the money exchanged was ransom money. On January 24, 1936, a verdict of guilty was returned as to all three defendants. On February 1, 1936, McDonald was sentenced to serve 15 years. On June 6, 1940, McDonald

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson:

was released on a habeas corpus writ from prison. On June 12, 1941, the U. S. Court of Appeals reversed the lower court in releasing McDonald on the writ. McDonald petitioned for a writ of Certiorari and this was denied by the Supreme Court October 13, 1941. McDonald re-entered Leavenworth Penitentiary October 30, 1941.

we should find out when he was released

RECOMMENDATION:

That we telephone the Detroit Office giving SAC Brown sufficient background so that he may intelligently interview Trainor to determine what this is all about. If a cache of money is located, SAC Brown can easily contact us regarding further action to be taken and comparison of serial numbers with the ransom list.

Wm. J. Thompson

*Number from to the Bureau
7/14/58 - AR:1/14*

Office Memorandum

• UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: November 12, 1957

FROM : G. A. Nease

SUBJECT: WIDE WIDE WORLD
NBC PRODUCTION
DECEMBER 22, 1957

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

On November 8, Kemper saw Ted Rogers and Howard Azine at the graduation exercises.

Rogers said that they got some excellent footage at the exercises and felt certain some of it could be used in our Wide Wide World production.

Rogers and Azine both said that the matter had been straightened out with Bennett and the two programs would be separate. They were on their way to San Francisco to see what they could get in the way of a film interview or a tape with Karpis.

Rogers had with him two of his production men who were Bob Daniels, NBC technical supervisor, and Bill Lynch, unit manager.

Kemper took Daniels and Lynch on a tour and showed them the physical setup of the building, including power outlets, freight elevators, etc.

Kemper told Lynch that we would like very much to have a list of the individuals who would be taking part in the program, particularly those who would be in the building over the week end of December 21, along with their birth date, if possible.

cc - Mr. Nease

cc - Mr. DeLoach

ECK:grs
(6)

87

17-576-1
NOT REC.
NOV 15 1957

NOV 14 1957

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *Ry*

DATE: February 17, 1958

FROM : E. E. Hargett *EEH*SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was., ET AL.
EDWARD BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
Nease	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

At 12:30 p.m.* I spoke to ASAC Ken Commons, Detroit, who advised that he had this morning interviewed Jim Trainor, editor of the "Detroit Times" with regard to the possible identification of currency in this case. Commons stated that Trainor advised him that he had received information from an attorney by the name of Ed Savidge of Detroit, who is representing a group of four women in litigation against the estate of Bernard. Savidge told a reporter of the "Times" that he had found out that Bernard had represented Cassius McDonald, now deceased, one of the subjects in this case, and in view of the large amount of cash in the estate of Bernard, he felt that possibly some of the money was from the Bremer kidnaping case. According to Trainor, Savidge pointed out that some of the money found in the estate of Bernard was the old-type large currency.

Trainor said that he was not going to publish anything on this story as he felt that it was principally an attempt by the attorney Savidge to bring pressure to bear on the benefactors under Bernard's estate in order that they might settle with his clients. Trainor said that he did not know the names of the women whom Savidge represented, but he knew that one was a widow, another Bernard's former housekeeper, and another his former secretary.

Trainor made available to Commons the information that the newspaper had printed concerning Bernard's death. The press clippings indicated that Bernard had died suddenly and was found at 5:00 a.m. in his hotel room at the Hotel Shelby by his brother, Bertram Bernard, and that Bertram had not reported his death until 11:00 a.m. and there were allegations that Bertram had taken some money estimated to be \$300,000 either from Bernard's room or from the hotel safe which was not reported in his estate. The clippings also indicated that in a wall safe in Bertram's office in downtown Detroit there was found \$550,000 in cash (not \$200,000 as previously reported) and \$325,000 in securities. Also various watches, rings, and jewelry which apparently Bernard had accepted in payment for fees as an attorney were found.

E EH:jh:nmc
(5)

* 2/14/58

REC- 79

EX-135

65 FEB 24 1958

7-576

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
ALVIN KARPIS, Was., Et Al.

The principal benefactors of the estate were Bertram Bernard and a Mrs. McKay, whom it was rumored was the daughter of Bernard.

Commons stated that he had attempted to get hold of the Judge who was handling the estate but he was out of town and could not be reached until next week. However, he was immediately proceeding to the court in an effort to determine if any of the cash is still intact and could be checked against the known bill numbers in the Bremer case. He said that it appeared that the cash would have been dissipated by this time. However, he would check to be sure what the situation was.

Detroit further advised by teletype the evening of February 14, 1958, that a search of the Wayne County Probate records regarding Edward M. Barnard revealed only an inventory of cash by amount and denomination with no information as to whether the money is still intact or was deposited to the credit of the estate. Probate Judge Joseph A. Murphy who is currently out of Detroit and will return on February 17, 1958, is handling this case and he will be contacted upon his return.

ACTION TAKEN:

ASAC Commons will advise us as soon as he has run this matter completely down.

EMH R
Jfs gmo V
Hox

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: February 14, 1958

FROM : E. E. Hargett

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, Was., ET AL.
EDWARD BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

Tolson	_____
Nichols	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
Nease	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

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EEH:jh
(5)

62 FEB 25 1958

REC-85

EX-131

7-576

b.6pt

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
ALVIN KARPIS, Was., Et Al.

The principal benefactors of the estate were Bertram Bernard and a Mrs. McKay, whom it was rumored was the daughter of Bernard.

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ACTION TAKEN:

ASAC Commons will advise us as soon as he has run this matter completely down.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 17 1958

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

URGENT 2-17-58 3-59PM MAG

TO DIRECTOR FBI

FROM SAC DETROIT 1P

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL., EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VIKID.

REMYTEL FOURTEENTH INSTANT. PROBATE JUDGE JOSEPH A. MURPHY

DETERMINED TO BE IN CALIFORNIA ON VACATION AND NOT EXPECTED

TO RETURN FOR THREE WEEKS. IT APPEARS BERTRAM BARNARD,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., ADMINISTRATOR, OR VALOIS E. CROSSLEY,
DETROIT, ATTORNEY FOR ESTATE, ARE ONLY PERSONS WHO CAN
PROVIDE INFO AS TO WHETHER CURRENCY OF ESTATE STILL INTACT

AND AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION. DETROIT INDICES ON CROSSLEY
REFLECT HE WAS MEMBER DETROIT CHAPTER NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

NINETEEN FORTYFIVE AND FORTYSIX. NO OTHER RECORD. BUREAU FEB 20 1958

REQUESTED TO ADVISE WHETHER CONTACT WITH ADMINISTRATOR OR

ATTORNEY DESIRED.

END

Mr. Rosen

WA 3-59 PM OK FBI WA DM

TU DISV

EX-135

REC-79

7-576 7511

Belk
2-18-58
F.H.

2/18/58

TELETYPE

PLAIN TEXT - DEFERRED

REC-79

TO SAC, DETROIT

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL., EDWARD GEORGE BREMER DASH VICTIM,
KIDNAPING. REURTEL FEBRUARY SEVENTEEN, LAST. ENDEAVOR TO
OBTAIN THROUGH FURTHER CHECK COURT RECORDS OR DISCREET CONTACT
OUTSIDE SOURCES, POSSIBLY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DESIRED
INFORMATION PENDING RETURN JUDGE MURPHY YOUR AREA.

EX-135

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Teletype Room
COPIES DESTROYED

100 MAR 26 1965

65 FEB 24 1958
FBI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 18 1958

TELETYPE

RECEIVED

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

FEB 18 1 03 PM '58

RECEIVED

FEB 19 1958

RECEIVED

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. BOARDMAN *W*

FROM : A. ROSEN *R*

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases, et al.;
EDWARD BREMER, Victim
KIDNAPING

DATE: 2/14/58

Tolson ☒
Nichols ☒
Boardman ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Parsons ☒
Rosen ☒
Tamm ☒
Trotter ☒
Nease ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holloman ☒
Gandy ☒

Reference is made to the call which came into the Bureau yesterday from Donald O'Connor, Washington representative of the "Detroit Times." He indicated that they had information in Detroit which would be made available to us by the City Editor concerning a story which they were working on.

In accordance with arrangements made by O'Connor, I called our Detroit Office and instructed that Mr. Jim Trainer, City Editor of the "Detroit Times" should be interviewed immediately.

In the absence of the SAC who was out of the territory, ASAC Commons interviewed Trainer who was not able to complete his story. He had another meeting last night and we are to get the additional details today. He did, however, briefly state that his information is based on the death of attorney Edward M. Barnard of a heart attack last October 1957. Trainer said that Barnard had represented Cassius McDonald in the kidnaping case. On opening Barnard's safe after his death, cash amounting to approximately \$250,000 was found in addition to many items of jewelry. It is Trainer's belief, therefore, that although Barnard was a criminal lawyer with a fair degree of success, he had no outward appearance of wealth which would equal that found in the safe. Following this thought, he therefore believes that if the cash found in Barnard's safe was to be examined and checked against the money used in the ransom, there might possibly be some ransom which would turn up.

ASAC Commons said that the court had appointed an administrator to handle disbursement of Barnard's estate. It is not known at this time if the money allegedly in the safe is still intact now and the administrator may have already disbursed or otherwise converted the money or deposited it in a bank where, of course, it would be co-mingled with other money immediately.

cc Mr. Nease
AR/rh
(7)

REC-76

FEB 20 1958

F 296
58 FEB 25 1958

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman
Re: ALVIN KARPIS, WAS, ET AL.
EDWARD BREMER, VICTIM, KIDNAPING

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Commons will advise us following the receipt of the complete information from Trainer and, of course, we will have to follow through with whatever logical leads may exist.

It is to be noted that our best estimate of the amount of money accounted for out of the \$200,000 which was paid as ransom is \$131,100. This amount was disposed of in 1934. It is made up of \$90,000 which McDonald converted in Havana, Cuba; \$20,000 which was given to Volney Davis and William Weaver; \$19,000 recovered from various subjects; and miscellaneous funds passed in Chicago banks.

It is reasonable to presume that the balance of some \$69,000 was spent by the gang for living expenses and so forth.

You will be advised of further developments.

JA

✓

2/21/58

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

DEFERRED

7-576-15437
TO SAC DETROIT

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL., EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VIKID. REURTEL
FEBRUARY TWENTY, LAST. THERE APPEARS NO OBJECTION TO IRS
FURNISHING LIST OF SERIAL NUMBERS FOR CHECK AGAINST RANSOM LIST
IF IT CAN BE HANDLED ON DISCREET BASIS. NO LIST MAINTAINED OF
UNRECOVERED CURRENCY IN THIS CASE. BULET FEBRUARY EIGHT,
ONE NINE THREE FOUR, FURNISHED RANSOM LIST. TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
DOLLARS PAID. ALL BILLS WERE FIVES AND TENS. IRS MAY BE ABLE
TO CONFINE SEARCH TO SERIES FIVES AND TENS ISSUED PRIOR TO
JANUARY SEVENTEEN, ONE NINE THREE FOUR.

EHH:jlh
(3)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 21 1958

TELETYPE

COPIES DESTROYED

MAR 26 1965

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Teletype Room

MAIL ROOM ☐

INITIALED
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

"Detroit Times" furnished information re death of Attorney Bernard, who represented Cassius McDonald, now deceased, one of subjects in this case. In view of large amount of cash in the estate of Bernard possibility exists some of money was Bremer ransom money. "Detroit Times" not going to publish anything on this story as Trainor, editor, felt it was an attempt by Attorney Ed Savidge to bring pressure to bear on the benefactors under Bernard's estate in order that they might settle with his clients. Detroit determined Internal Revenue Service that currency in Bernard estate still intact. Bernard died October, 1957. He left approximately one million dollars in cash and negotiable securities. Internal Revenue Service states money, according to their estimate, accumulated after 1938. Bremer kidnaped 1/17/34. There appears no objection to Internal Revenue Service obtaining list of currency serial numbers for comparison ransom list. No list of unrecovered currency available. Detroit being advised. Ransom paid was \$200,000 in fives and tens. Approximately \$131,000 accounted for. This amount was disposed of in 1934. \$90,000 was converted to "clean" money in Havana, Cuba.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 20 1958

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Clayton
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

URGENT 2-20-58 6-29 PM EST JH
TO DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM SAC DETROIT 1-P

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL, EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VIKID. VICTIM-KIDNAPING

REBUTEL EIGHTEENTH INSTANT. ELMER F. SCHOENITH, SUPERVISOR (IRS) OF SENIOR FRAUD CASES, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DETROIT, TODAY ADVISED CURRENCY OF BARNARD ESTATE STILL INTACT EXCEPT FOR SMALL AMOUNT USED TO PAY SOME EXPENSES. MONEY AND RECORDS OF DECEASED NOW UNDER EXAMINATION BY IRS IN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH POSSIBLE SOURCES AND DATES MONEY RECEIVED. SCHOENITH STATES BASED ON THEIR INVESTIGATION ALMOST ENTIRE AMOUNT OF CURRENCY ACCUMULATED AFTER NINETEEN THIRTYEIGHT. EXAMINATION BEING MADE AT SAFE DEPOSIT VAULT OF THE COMMONWEALTH BANK OF DETROIT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF IRS AND ESTATE ALWAYS PRESENT.

SCHOENITH HAS AGREED TO PREPARE LIST BY SERIAL NOS. OF ALL CURRENCY ISSUED PRIOR TO NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE AND FURNISH TO THIS OFFICE. UACB HE WILL BE REQUESTED TO DO SO. BUREAU REQUESTED TO FURNISH LIST OF UNRECOVERED CURRENCY IN THIS CASE FOR COMPARISON WITH LIST WHICH SCHOENITH WILL PROVIDE.

DND ACK PLS.

6-31 PM OK FBI WA JG

TU DISC

Mr. Rosen

CC Rosen
Super

1-14-58 advised

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 14 1958

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. Clayton	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

URGENT 2-14-58 7-27 PM EST JH

TO DIRECTOR FBI

FROM SAC DETROIT 1-P

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ETAL, EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VIKID. RE DE PHONE

CALL TO BUREAU THIS DATE. SEARCH OF WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE COURT RECORDS

IN MATTER OF EDWARD N. BARNARD, DECEASED, REFLECTS ONLY AN INVENTORY

OF CASH BY AMOUNT AND DENOMINATION WITH NO INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER

STILL IN TACT OR DEPOSITED TO CREDIT OF ESTATE. CASE BEING HANDLED BY

PROBATE JUDGE JOSEPH A. MURPHY WHO IS OUT OF CITY. WILL BE CONTACTED

UPON HIS RETURN AND BUREAU WILL BE FURTHER ADVISED ON SEVENTEENTH

INSTANT.

END

7-65 FEB 14 1958

TU DISC

Mr. Rosen

VICTIM - KIDNAPING

7-576-15438

REC-79

CC Sup

new brought in 2/17/58

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 3/3/58

FROM : *QWF* SAC, Kansas City (7-37)SUBJECT: *QWF* BREKID
Cincinnati - Origin

On 2/27/58, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Ks., advised that ALVIN FRANCIS KARPIS, was, Alvin Karpanicz (TN), USP No. 49368-L, FBI No. 199217, was received at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Ks., on 2/27/58, on transfer from the U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz.

A review of the file at the U. S. Penitentiary indicated that a stop had been placed by the FBI, San Francisco, to be notified in the event of any parole action on the part of KARPIS.

In view of this, ZARTER was requested to place a stop for the FBI Office, Kansas City, Mo., to be notified in the event of any transfer, parole, or change of status of KARPIS.

Kansas City will continue to follow this matter and promptly notify the Bureau of any change in the status of KARPIS at the Institution. *P**

2 - Bureau (7-576)
1 - Cincinnati (7-43)
1 - Kansas City 7-37
RAS/hmg
(4)

Antel KC 3/1/58 request information as to reason for transfer of Karpis by E.A.B. J.L.P.

REC-11

7-576-15437

MAR 5 1958

MAR 13 1958

"Detroit Times" for information re death of Attorney Bernard, who represented Cassius McDonald, now deceased, one of subjects this case. In view of large amount of cash in the estate of Bernard possibility exists some of money was Bremer ransom money. "Detroit Times" not going to publish anything on this story. FBI Detroit determined at Internal Revenue Service that currency in Bernard estate still intact. Bernard died October, 1957. He left approximately one million dollars in cash and negotiable securities. Internal Revenue Service states money, according to their estimate, accumulated after 1938. Bremer kidnaped 1/17/34. Ransom paid was \$200,000 in fives and tens. Approximately \$131,100 accounted for. This amount was disposed of in 1934. \$90,000 was converted to "clean" money in Havana, Cuba. Arrangements made for IRS to examine money and record serial numbers of 5's and 10's.

FBI

Date: 2/27/58

Transmit the following in _____

PLAIN TEXT

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AMSD

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, DETROIT (7-25)

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was.; ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VIKID

ReButel 2/21/58.

Internal Revenue Agent, Detroit, on 2/24/58, advised examination of money of estate of EDWARD N. BARNARD has been substantially completed. All \$5 and \$10 bills located total only about \$100 and on next meeting with estate representatives he will prepare a list of serial numbers of such currency. Bureau will be immediately advised.

③ - Bureau (AMSD)
1 - Detroit

BTC:SLZ:ec

REC-5
7-576

7-576-15440
10 3-4
FEB 28 1958

SENT DIRECTOR
2-28-58

ce Rosen

76 MAR 7 1958

Approved: *awp*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

February 17, 1958

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Chicago

From: Director, FBI

MR. JOSEPH N. BELL, 215 SOUTH SIXTH AVENUE,
LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS, RESEARCH MATTER

The supplement known as "Family Weekly," which is published in Chicago, for February 9, 1958, carried an item entitled "The Indestructible J. Edgar Hoover" by the above-captioned individual. The Bureau cooperated with Bell in connection with this particular story, and he has been commended by the Director for his article.

With the article there was a photograph taken at the time of the apprehension of Alvin Karpis and shows the Director and former Assistant Director Connelley.

It is desired that you have someone contact appropriate officials at "Family Weekly" and see if you can secure a glossy print of this photograph. If they do not have a glossy print, determine where they got the picture and make appropriate arrangements. This matter should be handled expeditiously and the Bureau should be advised by February 21.

7-576 ✓
NOT RECORDED
133 MAR 18 1958

NOTE: See Jones to Nease memo dated 2/13/58 captioned "Alvin Karpis 1958 Arrest Photograph," JRH:cag.

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

ECK:cag
(4)

MAILED 123 46 MAR 17 1958

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-104716

3/12/58

AIRTEL

To SAC, Kansas City (7-37)

From Director, FBI (7-576)

del
BREKID

Reurlet 3/3/58.

Endeavor to obtain from review prison file
on Karpis reason for transfer from Alcatraz to Leavenworth.
If information not available request San Francisco to obtain.

Suairtel by return mail.

1 - San Francisco (Information) *m*

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

EHH:jl
(4)

COMM - FBI
MAR 12 1958
MAILED 19

Mail Room

pp
MAR 12 1958
MAR 17 1958

REC-82

EX-117

WAB
7-576-15441
JP
MAR 13 1958

3/12/58

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Detroit (7-25)

From: Director, FBI

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL.
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VIKID

Reurairtel 2/27/58.

Subairtel by return mail current developments.
When matter completed, furnish brief summary to MP
for information purposes.

DL 15-1
2-1

COMM - FBI
MAR 12 1958
MAILED 19

REC-82

7-576-15442

14 MAR 13 1958

EHH:mlm
(4)

EX-111

olson _____
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oardman _____
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7 MAR 17 1958
F-361
FVH
Rjmo

SMA

MAIL ROOM ☒

Office Memorandum

UNITED

GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nease

DATE: February 13, 1958

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS ARREST PHOTOGRAPH

Tolson ☒
 Nichols ☒
 Boardman ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Parsons ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Tamm ☒
 Trotter ☒
 Nease ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Holloman ☒
 Gandy ☒

Article entitled "The Indestructible J. Edgar Hoover" by Joseph N. Bell, appearing on February 9, 1958, in the "Family Weekly" newspaper supplement distributed to 165 newspapers, contains a photograph showing the Director leading the handcuffed Alvin Karpis following the arrest of Karpis by Mr. Hoover.

The origin of this photograph has been determined. It is an Acme Photo which appeared in several different newspapers throughout the country shortly after Karpis' arrest by the Director on May 1, 1936. The photograph shows Mr. Hoover leading Karpis into the Federal Building at St. Paul, Minnesota, after a plane flight from the place of apprehension, New Orleans. (Copies of newspaper photos attached) *returned to file 4-18-58*

Acme Photo is no longer in business. Inquiry reflects Acme Photo Company, which belonged to the Scripps-Howard organization, was dissolved in 1952 and has been reconstituted as United Press Newspictures. It is now the photo service for Scripps-Howard just as United Press is the news service.

Should the original of this photograph be desired, it can possibly be located through contact with United Press Newspictures or by checking with the author of the article, Joseph N. Bell.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Enclosures

JRH:cag
(2)

WE COULD NOT
 LOCATE A
 GLOSSY PRINT

7-576-15443

MAR 11 1958

REC-10
EX-136

62 MAR 18 1958

CRIME REC.

J. Edgar Jones Nease
2-17-58
Nease

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nease

DATE: March 4, 1958

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS ARREST PHOTOGRAPH

Tolson _____
 Nichols _____
 Boardman _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 Nease _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

Re my memorandum 2/13/58.

The Chicago Office has obtained a glossy print of captioned photograph which portrays the Director leading Alvin Karpis following Karpis' arrest in May, 1936.

A copy of this photograph is attached.

Enclosure

JRH:cag
(2)

ENCLOSURE
4/1
62 MAR 19 1958

EX-136

REG-47

EX-136

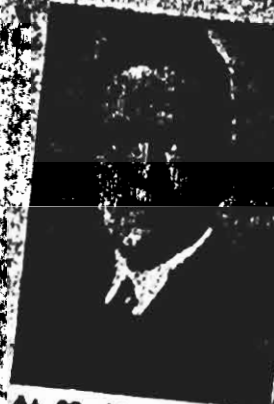
CRIME REC.

MAR 11 1958

11 14

7-16-15444





At 29, Hoover took John Dillinger's "shot" over dispatches FBI. He looked out. Alvin Karpis boasted he would kill Hoover, but failed in London, leaving his men.



The Indestructible J. Edgar Hoover

Staunch symbol of the American way of life, the director of the FBI is almost a legend in his own lifetime.

Just call NATIONAL 3-7117 in Washington, D. C., and ask for him any time, day or night. Of course, you'd better have a kidnapping to report. This is the line set up by Hoover so families of kidnap victims can get through directly to him. It is the direct line to the degree to which Hoover keeps on investigation.

In the minds of most Americans, John Edgar Hoover has become a symbol of everything that is tough, courageous, and upright about the American way of life. Probably no individual in modern times—particularly in public life—has enjoyed the same degree of admiration or the almost universal respect accorded him.

Hoover often speaks in platitudes which are sincere convictions to him. He believes in Americanism, in the Sunday School—and he really believes in them. Consequently he has been a powerful force for good among the young people to whom he speaks. He is a man of his stature, a man of his stature, a man of his stature. He is a man of his stature, a man of his stature, a man of his stature.

He is a man of his stature, a man of his stature, a man of his stature. He is a man of his stature, a man of his stature, a man of his stature.

relations with Congress. Last year, when money off appropriations for administrative agencies with almost reckless abandon, Hoover, appeared quietly before a Congressional committee and stated his needs—\$181,458,000. They were promptly supplied with scarcely a dissenting vote. During the hearings, Rep. Prince H. Preston of Georgia told Hoover: "We believe that you handle the taxpayer's dollar wisely, and although the appropriation for the FBI has grown considerably through the years, we realize that your responsibilities have increased, too. I don't know what we would have done in this country if it hadn't been for the FBI."

Who is this man who can command such universal respect? Where did he come from? What is this paragon of strength really like?

John Edgar Hoover grew up in Washington, D. C., where he was a valedictorian, captain of the Cadet Corps, and star debater at Central High School. After earning a Master of Laws Degree from George Washington University in 1917, he joined the Department of Justice as a young lawyer concentrating on espionage cases.

In 1921 he was transferred to the FBI—which was then an obscure, politics-ridden organization. He had

every government bureau was affected, but Hoover secured the directorship of the FBI by defeating General Harlan Fiske Stone.

The original FBI which Hoover took over in 1935 was a riddled FBI in 1934 were that he allowed to direct it without political pressure and appointments from the basis of merit alone. These few years, the Bureau had undergone a lifting and both the FBI and John Edgar Hoover were on their way to becoming America's institutions. Today Hoover heads an organization of more than 14,000 persons from whom he demands almost the credible standards of background and performance. The results are apparent.

One FBI statistic is especially impressive. Last year, the Bureau brought to trial in cases prosecuted by the FBI were convicted last year—and of these 11,318 convictions, 94.8 percent of the defendants pleaded guilty. Taxpayers were saved millions of dollars in court costs by these guilty pleas from culprits who realized the FBI had the goods on them so completely there was no point in going through the formality of a trial.

Even without these savings, the FBI year after year is being a profit-making organization.



IN CASE DESSERT FROM MIX MINNEAPOLIS

FBI

Date: 3/14/58

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL (AM)
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (7-25)

ALVIN KARPIS, was., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMMER, VIKID. } 5

Re Bureau Airtel, 3/12/58.

Mr. ELMER F. SCHOENITH, Senior Fraud Section, Internal Revenue Service, Detroit, advised today that the Administrator of the EDWARD N. BARNARD estate has been ill and that it is expected he will be well enough to be present when the money is examined next week.

Bureau will be kept advised of all pertinent developments.

③ - Bureau
1 - Detroit
BTC:MMR
(4)

REC-78

EX-117

7-526-15445
12 MAR 15 1958
E HAY

6 APR 2 1958

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

SAC, Minneapolis

3/19/58

Director, FBI (7-576)

REC-59

7-576-15446

BREKID

EX-108

For your information, Alvin Karpis was transferred on 2/27/58, from Alcatraz to Leavenworth Penitentiary, Kansas. A stop has been placed at Leavenworth in favor of the Kansas City Office to be advised in the event of any transfer, parole, or change of status of Karpis.

In the future Kansas City will furnish you a copy of all communications regarding the above.

1 - Kansas City (7-37)

EHH:jl
(5)

COMM - FBI
MAR 19 1958
MAILED 30

68 MAR 25 1958

Room
ian

MAIL ROOM ☐

FBI

Date: March 15, 1958

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Trotter _____
 Mr. Tele. Rm. _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (7-37)

BREKID

Origin: Cincinnati

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau 3-3-58 and Buairtel to Kansas City 3-12-58 requesting Kansas City to determine reason for KARPIS' transfer to U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth.

A review of the records of the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, made available by Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, on 3-14-58, concerning KARPIS reflects that his transfer order transferring him from the USP, Alcatraz to the USP, Leavenworth dated 2-20-58 stated as the reason for transfer "suitable for other penitentiary". It is noted that the Progress Reports dated May 25, 1956, February 19, 1957, May 24, 1957, and February 10, 1958 indicate that KARPIS' transfer from Alcatraz to Leavenworth appeared desirable and was recommended.

The record indicates that on 2-27-58 KARPIS indicated he desired that his sister, _____ be notified in case of death.

A copy of the aforementioned Progress Reports and one copy of the Special Progress Report dated 3-4-58 at Leavenworth are being forwarded to the Bureau as enclosures to this airtel.

- 3 - Bureau (7-576) (Encl. 5) (AM)
 1 - Cincinnati (7-43)
 1 - Kansas City (7-37)

RAS:MEJ
 (5)

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

cc Rosen
 Super

note: 7-576-15446
 all show detainees 1+NS
 for report to Canada

EX-108

EX-108

ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU (7-576)

KC 7-37

One copy Progress Report for ALVIN KARPAVICZ dated May 25, 1956)	all
) from
One copy " " " " " Feb. 19, 1957)	USP,
) Alcatraz
One copy " " " " " May 24, 1957)	
One copy " " " " " Feb. 10, 1958	
One copy " " " " " 3-4-58 from USP,	Leavenworth

7-576-15446

Mail To
Leavenworth

Transfer of this prisoner
to your institution has
been ordered.

49368-2

NOTED
FEB 10 1938
SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name **KARPAVICZ, Alvin**

C. H. LOONEY

Reg. No. **325-AZ**

Date **February 10, 1938**

TRANSFER TO LEAVENWORTH

Sentence Data: This white man, age 49, divorced, was sentenced July 27, 1936 at St. Paul, Minnesota to serve Life for Conspiring to Kidnap and Transport Person in Interstate Commerce. He participated in the Kidnapping of William Hamm Jr. together with his co-defendants Charles J. Fitzgerald (Life), Fred Barker (Deceased) Fred Goetz (Deceased) Byron Bolton, Jack Peifer (Deceased) "Doc" Barker, Dec; Edward C. Bartholmew. Committed to Leavenworth July 29, 1936, he was transferred to Alcatraz August 6, 1936 in view of his prior criminal record including escape, his high degree of criminal sophistication and the length of his sentence. Eligible for Parole consideration July 26, 1951, he declined to file an application. He has earned 137 days EGT at the rate of 4 days per month. A deport to Canada detainer is filed by the U.S. Immigration Service.

Social Information: His Lithuanian born parents migrated to this country in 1915 by way of Montreal, Canada where the subject was born and he has not been naturalized in the U.S. He is the third of four siblings, the others being law abiding people. At age 17, he was committed to the Kansas State Reformatory to serve 10 Years for Burglary. He escaped three years later, was returned and transferred to the Kansas State Penitentiary. He has received no visits and his parents are deceased but he writes to his sister, Emily Janke, Lakeville, Illinois. He enjoys playing table games in the yard and he plays the guitar. During the past year, he purchased an amplified tube, pen and paper. He subscribed for no magazines, but he reads a great deal of both fiction and non-fiction books. He has \$382.11 in his account with the Trust Fund.

Institutional Adjustment: He was last reported for misconduct May 18, 1953 for propositioning an officer, Action: SFU. His cellhouse officer states that Karpavicz is quiet in the cellhouse where he maintains a clean cell. His work supervisor in the Industries Office reports that this inmate is doing good work as a clerk in that office. He is in the purchasing section of the office and in view of his limited education he is doing a fine job. He is quiet, cooperative and he gets along well with officers and inmates.

Medical and Psychiatric: He is in good general health and is an infrequent caller on the sick line. He was last hospitalized in June 1956 with a Branchial Cleft Cyst which was removed surgically and he made an uneventful recovery. There are no mental or physical defects. His adjustment from a medical aspect has been excellent.

Committee Impressions and Recommendations: This man has been at Alcatraz for 21 years. He is a very conscientious worker in the industries office. Since 1953 there has been a marked change for the better in this man's general attitude. He seems much more relaxed and stable. He hopes for eventual parole for deportation to Canada. Although this man is prison wise, he seems to have good common sense and it is felt that he can adjust well at a custody institution. It is recommended that he be transferred to Leavenworth.

7-576-15442

U. S. Penitentiary
ALCATRAZ

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name **KARPAVICZ, Alvin**

Reg. No. **325-AZ**

Date **May 24, 1957**

Annual Review

Sentence Data: This white man, age 48, divorced, was sentenced July 27, 1936 at St. Paul, Minnesota to serve Life for Conspiring to Kidnap and Transport Person in Interstate Commerce. He participated in the Kidnapping of William Hamm Jr. together with his co-defendants Charles J. Fitzgerald (life), Fred Barker (Deceased) Fred Goetz (Deceased) Byron Bolton, Jack Peifer (Deceased) "Doc" Barker and Edward C. Bartholmew. Committed to Leavenworth July 29, 1936, he was transferred to Alcatraz August 6, 1936 in view of his prior criminal record including escape, his high degree of criminal sophistication and the length of his sentence. Eligible for Parole consideration July 26, 1951, he declined to file an application. A deport to Canada detainer is filed by the U S Immigration Service.

Social Information: His Lithuanian born parents migrated to this country in 1915 by way of Montreal, Canada where the subject was born and he has not been naturalized in the U. S. He is the third of four siblings, the others being law abiding people. At age 17, he was committed to the Kansas State Reformatory to serve 10 Years for Burglary. He escaped three years later, was returned and transferred to the Kansas State Penitentiary. He has received no visits and his parents are deceased but he writes to his sister, Emily Janke, Lakeville, Illinois. He enjoys playing table games in the yard and he plays the guitar. During the past year, he purchased an amplifier tube, pen and paper. He subscribed for no magazines, but he reads a great deal of both fiction and non-fiction books. He has \$382.12 in his account with the Trust Fund.

Institutional Adjustment: He was last reported for misconduct May 18, 1953 for propositioning an officer, Action: STU. His cellhouse officer states that Karpavicz is quiet in the cellhouse where he maintains a clean cell. His work supervisor in the Industries Office reports that this inmate is doing good work as a clerk in that office. He is in the purchasing section of the office and in view of his limited education he is doing a fine job. He is quiet, cooperative and he gets along well with officers and inmates.

Medical and Psychiatric: He is in good general health and is an infrequent caller on the sick line. He was last hospitalized in June 1956 with a Branchial Cleft Cyst which was removed surgically and he made an uneventful recovery. There are no mental or physical defects. His adjustment from a medical aspect has been excellent.

Committee Impressions and Recommendations: This man has been at Alcatraz for 21 years. He is a very conscientious worker in the industries office. He was friendly and spoke frankly when interviewed. Since 1953 there has been a marked change for the better in this man's general attitude. He seems much more relaxed and stable. He hopes for eventual parole for deportation to Canada. The Committee commended him for his good adjustment and recommended that he be transferred to Leavenworth when the Bureau sees fit to authorize the transfer.

U. S. Penitentiary
Alcatraz, California
SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name KARPAVICZ, Alvin

Reg. No. 325-AZ

Date February 19, 1957

TRANSFER TO LEAVENWORTH

Sentence Data: This White Man, age 48, Divorced, was sentenced July 27, 1936 at St. Paul Minnesota to serve Life for Conspiring to Kidnap and Transport Person in Interstate Commerce. He participated in the kidnapping of William Hamm Jr. together with his codefendants Charles J. Fitzgerald (Life), Fred Barker (Deceased) Fred Goetz (Deceased) Byron Bolton, Jack Peifer (Deceased) "Doc" Barker and Edward G. Bartholmey. Committed to Leavenworth July 27, 1936, he was transferred to Alcatraz August 6, 1936 in view of his prior Criminal Record including escape, his high degree of criminal sophistication and the length of his sentence. Eligible for Parole Consideration July 26, 1951, he declined to file an application. He has earned 89 days EOT at the rate of 4 days per month. A U. S. Immigration Service Detainer is filed for deportation to Canada.

Social Information: His Lithuanian born parents migrated to this country in 1915 by way of Montreal, Canada where the subject was born and he has not been Naturalized in the U. S. He is the 3rd of four siblings, the others being law abiding people. At age 17, he was committed to the Kansas State Reformatory to serve 10 years for Burglary. He escaped three years later, was returned and transferred to the Kansas State Penitentiary. He has received no visits and his parents are deceased but he writes to his sister, Emily Janke, Chicago, Illinois. He enjoys playing table games in the yard and he plays the guitar. During the past year, he purchased an amplifier tube, pen and paper. He subscribes for no magazines but he reads a great deal of both fiction and non-fiction books. There are \$325.52 in his account with the Trust Fund.

Institutional Adjustment: He was last reported for misconduct May 18, 1953 for Propositioning an Officer. Action: STU. His Work Supervisor in the Industries Office reports that Karpavicz is doing very good work as a clerk. He is a steady and conscientious worker who gets along well with everybody. His Cellhouse Supervisor reports that he is quiet in the Cellhouse and he is no Custodial Problem.

Committee Impressions and Recommendations: This man has maintained a clear conduct record for nearly four years. He has a pleasant manner and he is respectful to Officers and other personnel. He enjoys reading fiction books and information magazines such as U. S. News and World Report, Reader's Digest and Newsweek as supplied by the Library and he especially appreciates the Radio Program. He has not applied for Parole but he expects to do so after a period of time at another institution since he hopes that he will be Paroled for Deportation to Canada. The Committee felt that this man has become greatly stabilized and he has in recent years become reconciled to serving his sentence with hope of being Paroled for Deportation and the Committee recommended that he be transferred to Leavenworth.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS

U.S. Penitentiary

Alcatraz

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name **KARPAVICZ, Alvin**

Reg. No. **325-AZ**

Date **May 25, 1956**

ANNUAL REVIEW

Sentence Data: This White man, age 47, divorced, was sentenced July 27, 1936 at St. Paul, Minnesota to serve Life for Conspiring to Kidnap and Transport Person in Interstate Commerce. He participated in the kidnaping of William Hamm, Jr., together with his codefendants Charles J. Fitzgerald (Life), Fred Barker (Deceased) Fred Goetz (Deceased) Byron Bolton, Jack Peifer (Deceased) "Doc" Barker and Edward C. Bartholmey. Committed to Leavenworth July 27, 1936, he was transferred to Alcatraz August 6, 1936 in view of his prior criminal record including escape, ~~his~~ high degree of criminal sophistication and the length of his sentence. Eligible for parole consideration July 26, 1951, he declined to file an application. A U.S. Immigration Service detainer is filed for deportation to Canada.

Social Information: His Lithuanian born parents migrated to this country in 1915 by way of Montreal, Canada where the subject was born and he has not been naturalized in the U.S. He is the 3rd of four siblings, the others being law abiding people. At age 17, he was committed to the Kansas State Reformatory to serve 10 Years for Burglary. He escape three years later, was returned and transferred to the Kansas State Penitentiary. He has received no visits and his parents are deceased but he writes to his sister, Emily Janke, Chicago, Illinois. He enjoys playing table games in the yard and he plays the guitar. During the past year, he purchased an amplifier tube, pen and paper. He subscribes for no magazines but he reads a great deal of both fiction books and non-fiction. There are \$59.21 in his account with the Trust Fund.

Institutional Adjustment: He was last reported for misconduct May 18, 1953 Proposition 1 an officer, Action: STU. During the past year, he has been a very dependable, steady and conscientious worker in the library where he is assigned at clerical work maintaining the book files. By his thorough, systematic work the index files and other book records are being kept in good order and complete. In addition, he volunteers to help other inmates not familiar with the library routines and he fills in temporarily when we are short of inmate library workers. His cellhouse supervisor reports that he is quiet in the cellhouse and he maintains a clean cell. When through with his work, he goes directly to his cell without attempting to wander around the cellhouse. He appreciates the radio programs and his general attitude is good.

Medical and Psychiatric: At the present time, he is undergoing extensive dental treatment. He rarely presents a medical complaint when seen by the medical staff and he is cooperative and pleasant. He has not been hospitalized during the past year.

Committee impressions and recommendations: This man was pleasant at the meeting. He is a very good worker. He is easy to deal with and he is not discourteous. In a memorandum from the Bureau dated May 16, 1956, it was stated that this man seems to have stabilized recently but in view of the large number of serious offenders confined at Atlanta and Leavenworth, it is believed that he would still present a custodial risk at those institutions and his transfer was disapproved at this time. The Committee recommended that he be transferred to Leavenworth when the Bureau feels such a move would not be detrimental to that institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY,
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name **KARPAVICZ, Alvin**

Reg. No. **49368-L**

Date **3-4-58**

RE: RECEIVED IN TRANSFER FROM ALCATRAZ ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

CURRENT RELEASE DATE: **Life**

Karpavicz is a forty-nine year old white male offender presently serving a life sentence for conspiring to kidnap and transport a person in interstate commerce. He was sentenced on July 27, 1936 in the United States District Court in St. Paul, Minnesota and was committed to this institution on July 29, 1936. He was transferred to Alcatraz on August 6, 1936 and remained in that institution until his present transfer. Karpavicz became eligible for parole consideration on July 26, 1951 but declined to file an application at that time. He has a detainer on file against him at the present time for deportation to Canada.

In the USP in Alcatraz, California, Karpavicz received a total of 13 disciplinary reports. However, the last report occurred on May 18, 1953 when he was reported for propositioning an officer. Since that time he has maintained a clear conduct record and apparently has been adjusting satisfactorily. He was assigned to the industries office on July 6, 1956 and remained on that assignment in Alcatraz until his present transfer. He was reported to be doing good work as a clerk in that office and was regarded as a cooperative inmate. In Alcatraz, Karpavicz was regarded as an agitator who did not openly defy rules or regulations but one who initiated discussion and criticism of the institutional policies. He was regarded as an extremely dangerous individual who on several occasions seemed to be the leader of dissent which arose.

Karpavicz seemed to show a definite change in attitude since 1953 and he became more relaxed and stable at that time. It is noted that he maintained a clear conduct record for the last five years and his work reports have been entirely above average.

When interviewed in this institution, Karpavicz appeared to be extremely nervous which is probably explainable to the fact that he has been incarcerated for approximately twenty-two years in the Alcatraz institution. He was very quiet and cooperative in the interview and expressed a desire to be assigned to our industries in a clerical position if such could be arranged. He also mentioned that he worked in the library in Alcatraz and seemed to like that type of work.

RESIDENCE: **Chicago, Illinois**

USPO: **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

ADMISSION UNIT REPORT: **This report is not available at this writing.**

ASSOCIATE WARDEN RECOMMENDS:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS
SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name KARPAVICZ, Alvin

Reg. No. 49368-L

Date 3-12-58

MEDICAL

HISTORY: Patient states he wears glasses and needs a new pair; states he had heart trouble at the age of 15 years; has arthritis in his feet and legs; had an excision for a blood clot of the left femur in 1953; was treated for gonorrhea in 1934. Denies history of tuberculosis, major mental illness, narcotic addiction and convulsive disorder.

PHYSICAL FINDINGS: This is a 49 year old white male of medium physique, weighing 140 pounds and 69 inches tall. Examination of the heart, lungs and cardiovascular system was negative. Blood pressure: 130/80. Vision: Right 20/50; Left 20/40. Physical examination revealed partial ankylosis of proximal joint right little finger, varicose veins in left leg, surgery has been advised; atimosis of right thigh and popliteal area.

DENTAL CONDITION: Fair. Wearing upper partial dentures and needing prophylaxis

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS:

Urinalysis: Negative
Serology: Pending
Audiogram: Within normal limits
Chest x-ray: No abnormalities

DIAGNOSIS: 13 missing teeth
Dental calculus
Partial ankylosis of prox joint, right little finger
Varicose veins, left leg (Surgery advised)
Atimosis of right thigh and popliteal area
Defective vision

TREATMENT: Refraction

WORK: REGULAR DUTY

Admission Inspection: 2-27-58
Physical Examination: 3-4-58
Dictated by JLD/jkw: 3-7-58

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS
SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name Karpavicz, Alvin Reg. No. 49368-L Date March 12, 1958

VOCATIONAL

INSTITUTIONAL OCCUPATIONS: Alcatraz Island, 1936-58, ordinary department, 10 years, library, Industries office. Leavenworth, 1936, trafd.

WORK HISTORY: Karpavicz was employed in the ordinary department at the transferring institution for 10 years and he acquired about 5 years experience as a baker. He has a grade equivalent of 8.6. He states that he grows tired easily and is probably suitable only for a moderate duty assignment at this time.

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION: Baker.

WORK RECOMMENDATION: General Maintenance - D Cellhouse orderly.

EDUCATIONAL

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Subject claims he completed the 8th grade, at the age of 13, in the State of Kansas. He states he has no specific interests in educational work at this time.

STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST RESULTS: Partial Intermediate. Grade Equivalent: 8.6.
A.R. - 9.7 A.A. - 7.6

EDUCATIONAL RECOMMENDATION: Optional.

R.R.H.

PSYCHOMETRIC

INTELLIGENCE: (Subject was not tested, but he will be tested this week.)

CATHOLIC
RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE
INTERIOR ATTITUDE
GENERAL RECOMMENDATION
PARTICULAR RECOMMENDATION

BY BAPTISM ONLY
NONE
WELL DISPOSED
ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES
ENROLLMENT IN THE INSTITUTIONAL
INSTRUCTION CLASS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY,
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS
SPECIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name **KARPAVICZ, Alvin**

Reg. No. **49368-L**

Date

CLASSIFICATION ACTION SHEET

CUSTODY	CLOSE. Life sentence, and history of prior escape.
TRANSFER	NONE. Just received from Alcatraz. He has residence in Chicago, Illinois.
SOCIAL PAROLE	ROUTINE. Has no immediate social parole.
MEDICAL	REGULAR DUTY. Requires no special treatment, and was not referred for special psychiatric report.
EMPLOYMENT	GENERAL MAINTENANCE. Orderly in 'D' Cell-house. Assignment was made to fill an institutional need.
EDUCATIONAL	OPTIONAL. Has G.E. of 8.6 and I.Q. of 105.
RELIGION	CATHOLIC. Chapel attendance recommended, and reception of Sacraments.
PROGRAM PLANNING	Subject has no interest in the educational program in this institution. He seems to have a good attitude, but shows no interest in any program of self-improvement.

7-576-15446

3/26/58

AIRTEL

To SAC, Detroit (7-25)

From Director, FBI (7-576)

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL.; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM;
KIDNAPING.

Subairtel status.

On completion of inquiry, furnish brief summary
to Minneapolis.

EHH:jl
(4)

lson _____
hols _____
rdman _____
mont _____
r _____
sons _____
en _____
an _____
ter _____
se _____
Room _____
oman _____
by _____

Mail Room

REC- 23

EX - 117

MAILED 10

MAR 26 1958

COMM - FBI

14 MAR 27 1958

61 MAR 31 1958

7-576-1544

SAC, Detroit (7-25)

4/3/58

Director, FBI (7-576) - 15448

EX - 126 REC-18

ALVIN KARPIS, WAS., ET AL.;
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM;
KIDNAPING

Reurlet 3/25/58.

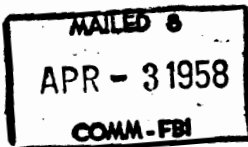
The serial numbers for the \$5 and \$10
bills were searched through the Bureau's indices
and no record was located which could be identified
with any of the listed serial numbers.

1 - Minneapolis (Information)

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

EHH:jlp
(5)

Mail Room



62 APR 7 1958 7/68

APR 7 - 1958

"Detroit Times" furnished information re death of Attorney Bernard, who represented Cassius McDonald, now deceased, one of subjects this case. In view of large amount of cash in the estate of Bernard possibility exists some of money was Bremer ransom money. "Detroit Times" not going to publish anything on this story. FBI Detroit determined at Internal Revenue Service that currency in Bernard estate still intact. Bernard died October, 1957. He left approximately one million dollars in cash and negotiable securities. Internal Revenue Service states money, according to their estimate, accumulated after 1938. Bremer kidnaped 1/17/34. Ransom paid was \$200,000 in fives and tens. Approximately \$131,100 accounted for. This amount was disposed of in 1934. \$90,000 was converted to "clean" money in Havana, Cuba. IRS examined money and recorded serial numbers of 5's and 10's. Listed \$5 and \$10 checked against Bremer list negatively.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-7756) 1

DATE: March 25, 1958

FROM : SAC, DETROIT (7-25)

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was., et al
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER
VIKID

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. Clayton	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Re Detroit airtel dated March 14, 1958.

Mr. E. JOBLONSKI, Internal Revenue Agent, advised SA BARRON T. CONKLIN on March 21, 1958, that he had audited all of the money in the safety deposit boxes of EDWARD N. BARNARD. JOBLONSKI advised that money in the amount of about \$600,000.00 was located, all directly traceable to account of some client and almost all traceable to some activity since 1947.

Serial numbers of the \$5 and \$10 bills issued prior to January 17, 1934, are as follows and are being furnished to the Bureau for checking against the list of unrecovered ransom money in this case:

\$5.00 - P 135 588 34A Series 1934 C
S 371 064 79A Series 1934 A
S 400 481 56A Series 1934 A
D 026 011 58A Series 1929
S 289 049 20B Series 1934 C
B 730 793 39A Series 1928
C 628 124 40A Series 1928
S 212 00 233A Series 1928 C

\$10.00 - S 434 941 17C Series 1934 B
S 115 540 32D Series 1934 C
S 660 50 306B Series 1934 A
S 341 416 86B Series 1934 A
S 635 526 99B Series 1934 A
D 009 310 A Series 1929
S 426 569 78A Series 1928 B

7-576-15448

2 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Detroit

BTC:JAR
(3)

REC-39

MAR 28 1958

EX-136

15 53 11 20
DE
4-3-58
E.H.H. gl

DE 7-25

S 400 114 91A Series 1928 B
S 435 273 90A Series 1928 B
S 515 076 36A Series 1934
A 443 928 32A Series 1934
D 284 835 73A Series 1934 A

Minneapolis is being separately advised.

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-7756)

March 25, 1958

SAC, DETROIT (7-25)

ALVIN KARPIS, was., et al B
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER 1934 B
VIKID 1934 34A Series 1934
1934 34A Series 1934
1934 34A Series 1934

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B 115 540 32D Series 1934 C
B 660 50 306B Series 1934 A
B 341 416 86B Series 1934 A
B 635 526 99B Series 1934 A
D 009 310 A Series 1929
B 426 569 78A Series 1928 B

2 - Bureau (AM) B 1
1 - Detroit

BTC:JAR
(3)

ENCLOSURE ORIGINAL

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Mr. Clayton _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

check index +
ransom list

-1542

NO PREVIOUS RECORD AS LISTED

April 2, 1958

AIRTEL

REC-42

EX-135

To SAC, Kansas City

From Director, FBI (7-576)

BREKID.

Enclosed herewith is a Photostat of a self-explanatory letter from Harry Campbell dated 2/19/58. Campbell is a prisoner at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri. He received a life sentence on 5/12/36, after pleading guilty to an indictment against him in the case involving the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, on 1/17/34.

Campbell's letter should be acknowledged and he should be informed that the granting of parole is a matter entirely within the prerogatives of the U. S. Board of Parole.

Advise the Bureau by 4/11/58, of your contact with Campbell and keep the Bureau advised of any developments in his efforts to obtain parole.

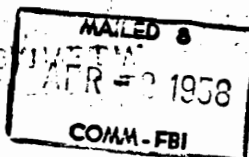
Enclosure

1 - Minneapolis (Enclosure)

NOTE: Campbell, who was indicted for his participation in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, 1/17/34, pleaded guilty on 5/12/36, and received a life sentence. He writes that he will be subject to annual review by the Parole Board in April, 1958, and that although it is not his intentions to impose upon the Director to aid him in his plea for parole, he would appreciate any help he could receive.

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

JRB:jlp 448 3 1 50.14.28
(5)



MAIL ROOM

February 19, 1958
RECEIVED THE
PRISONER'S MAIL BOX
MAR 17 1958

BUREAU OF PRISONS

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

First, I would like to give my long delayed sincere thanks for the personal consideration you gave me at the time of my arrest in Toledo, Ohio in April of 1936. Also, thank you for carrying out the promises you made at that time in regards to Gerturde Billiter, and that they were complied with exactly as you stated they would be.

In St. Paul I accepted the Special Investigators (J. Brennon) advice and plead guilty. So that I could pay for the crimes I had become involved in.

Mr. Hoover, I would like to give a short version of this past twenty two years from my point of view. Shortly after entering Leavenworth in 1936, I was sent to Alcatraz, and during the almost six (6) years I spent there I worked in the laundry. I would also like to point out that during this time I did not receive one disciplinary report.

My return to Leavenworth was in April of 1942; at which time I went to work in the shoe factory, where I remained until I was transferred to the Medical Center in 1953. During this stay at Leavenworth I did receive one (1) disciplinary report for going to the commissary on the wrong day.

Upon coming to the Medical Center I went into the shoe repair shop and am still working there. I have not received one disciplinary report here.

During all of this time I have not gone the writ route, contacted any attorneys for aid, and prior to this day have not sought help from any Government official.

In 1951 when I made my appearance before the Parole Board at Leavenworth I was greatly disturbed because of my mother's long illness and her recent death, I realize now that even at the time of my arrest I was a very sick person. These past twenty two years have seen many personal changes in me, and I hope all for the better.

37
EXP. PROC.
APR 1 1958
32

3 P. 12-1-58 made of letter of J. Edgar Hoover
4-1-58 E. H. H. H.

EX-135

-1-

RECORDED

17 47 4 1958

7-576-15449
E. H. H. H.

In these past twenty two years, I have tried in every way possible to make up for the wrong I have done. For fifteen years I attended Mass every Sunday. I have contributed 40 pints of blood to the American Red Cross Blood Program, and also cash. I am bringing these points up only to point out a few of the many changes. Also, during this past sixteen (16) years I have been making, or repairing shoes. I think this should qualify me as a journeymen shoe maker and cobbler.

Mr. Hoover, I am now 58 years old, and I think a thousand per cent better person and citizen than I was twenty two years ago. I would like to make a personal appeal for your aid in my obtaining a parole. If the board sees fit to grant me a parole I would be more than willing for the stipulation to be added that I report to the local agent of the FBI also, along with the Probation Officer. All I am asking is the opportunity to prove to everyone that I can be a reputable citizen. My family ties have remained very close during this time, and in my parole plan they will obtain employment for me in a shoe repair shop, or if the board would allow, help me establish a shoe repair shop of my own.

My annual review is in April, and it is not my intentions to impose upon you in aiding me in this bit for parole. However, if in your mind my progress and adjustment merits the opportunity to return to society so that I may prove to you and the citizens of this wonderful country, that this time has not made me bitter, but a much better man it will be forever appreciated.

Respectfully,

Harry Campbell

Harry Campbell
P. O. Box 9417-H
Springfield, Missouri

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 4/8/58

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (7-37)

SUBJECT: BREKID
(OO-Cincinnati)

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau dated 3/15/58.

On 4/7/58, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Ks., made available the file of ALVIN KARPIS, an inmate at the U.S. Penitentiary. A review of the file reflects no change in the status of KARPIS.

The Kansas City Office will continue to follow this matter closely and keep the Bureau advised of any changes.

2-Bureau
1-Cincinnati (7-43)
1-Kansas City
RAS:lib
(4)

APR 11 1958

EX-135

F 48
55 APR 15 1958

Campbell was indicted on 1/17/34, for his participation in the kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul, Minn. He pleaded guilty on 5/12/36, and received a life sentence. Bureau received a letter through the Board of Parole from Campbell. He wrote he was due for his annual review by the Parole Board. He did not request any assistance but would appreciate any aid he could receive. Attached advises Campbell's letter was acknowledged. Campbell was advised that parole is within province of Parole Board. He had a special interview by Parole Board on 4/2/58. Kansas City will be advised of any action taken with respect to parole for Campbell.

F B I

Date: 4/10/58

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTELAIR MAIL

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Clayton
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (7-37)
SUBJECT: BREKID

Rebuairtel to Kansas City dated April 2, 1958.

On 4/9/58 SA JAMES A. MITCHELL personally contacted inmate HARRY CAMPBELL, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Mo. and his letter to the Director acknowledged. He was advised that the granting of a parole was a matter entirely within the province of the U. S. Board of Parole. He stated that he understands this and the Bureau's position in the matter. He stated that he has twice corresponded with the Board of Parole, Washington, D.C. and requested a special interview. He stated he was interviewed on 4/2/58 by a representative of the U. S. Board of Parole, Washington, D.C. He stated he is due for annual parole review in May 1958 and that he wanted to explain his case, prior to that date. He stated the representative from the Board of Parole treated him with respect and that he feels certain his hope of parole lies with that board. He expressed appreciation of the agent's visit.

On 4/9/57 Mr. DAN SMITH, Secretary to the Warden, advised that Mrs. EVA BOWRING, U. S. Board of Parole, Washington, D.C. granted a special interview of inmate CAMPBELL on 4/2/58 on the recommendation of Warden R. O. SETTLE. The record reflects that CAMPBELL has maintained a clear conduct record except for one minor violation in 1948 during his period of incarceration which dates back to 1936. Mr. SMITH stated it will probably be a month or more before any action is taken on the request of CAMPBELL by the U. S. Board of Parole and the prison advised of the results.

- ③ - Bureau (AM)
1 - Minneapolis (Regular Mail)
1 - Kansas City

JAM/ebc
(5)

REC-45

EX-123

APR 12 1958

N 2

7-576

APR 14 11 35 AM '58

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

53 APR 17 1958

VBR

cc Rosen
Super

F B I

Date: 4/10/58

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
KC 7-37
PAGE TWO (Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. SMITH stated that he would advise this office when a communication is received from the U. S. Board of Parole and the Bureau will be promptly advised.

FELT
END

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 5/8/58

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (7-37)

SUBJECT: BREKID
OO: CI

Re KC letter to Bureau dated 4/8/58.

On 5/6/58 Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas made available the file of ALVIN KARPIS, an inmate at the U. S. Penitentiary. A review of the file reflects no change in the status of KARPIS.

The Kansas City Office will continue to follow this matter closely and keep the Bureau advised of any changes.

2 Bureau
1 Cincinnati (7-43)
1 Kansas City

RAS:pmc
(4)

K

REC-93

7-576-15452

MAY 12 1958

96
53 MAY 15 1958

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 6/19/58

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (7-37)

SUBJECT: BREKID
(OO CI)

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau dated 5/8/58.

On June 10, 1958, Mr. DAN SMITH, secretary to the Warden, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, made available the file of HARRY CAMPBELL to SA JAMES A. MITCHELL. A review of this file indicated no change in the status of CAMPBELL.

On June 12, 1958, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, made available the file of ALVIN KARPIS to SA RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD. A review of this file reflects no change in the status of KARPIS.

The Kansas City Office will continue to follow this matter closely and keep the Bureau advised of any changes.

2 Bureau (7-576)
1 Cincinnati (7-43)
1 Kansas City (7-37)

RAS:LAC
(4)

EX-124

REC-26

7-576-121
20 JUN 23 1958

109

SAC, Kansas City (7-37)

July 24, 1958

Director, FBI (7-576)-15454

BREKID REC-70

Re Kansas City letter 7/18/58.

Kansas City has advised that there is no change in the status of Alvin Karpis at Leavenworth, Kansas. In the future Kansas City will furnish a copy of all communications in this matter to the Minneapolis Division.

1 - Minneapolis

EHH:jlh

(5)

COMM - FBI
JUL 24 1958
MAILED 27

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

53 JUL 29 1958

MAIL ROOM ☐

JUL 29 1958

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 7/18/58

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (7-37)

SUBJECT: BREKID
(OO CI)

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau dated 6/19/58.

On 7/15/58, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Ks., made available the file of ALVIN KARPIS to SA RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD. A review of this file reflects no change of status for KARPIS at the institution.

The Kansas City Office will continue to follow this matter closely and keep the Bureau advised of any change in the status of KARPIS.

2-Bureau
1-Cincinnati (7-43)
1-Kansas City
RAS:lib
(4)

Let to SAC KC
7/24/58
Chh: jpe

EX-124

REC-11

7-516-15454

WV

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (7-37)

DATE: 8/12/58

SUBJECT: BREKID
(OO CI)

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau, dated 7/18/58
Bureau letter to Kansas City, dated 7/24/58

On 8/5/58, Mr. DARLOW JOHNSON, Supervisor, Classification and Parole, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Mo., advised SA JAMES A. MITCHELL that HARRY CAMPBELL, an inmate at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, had received word from the U. S. Board of Parole and Probation, Washington, D. C. that his application for parole had been denied. The records reflect no additional change in the status of CAMPBELL at the institution.

On 8/11/58, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, made available the file of ALVIN KARPIS to SA RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD. A review of this file reflected no change in the status of KARPIS at the institution.

The Kansas City Office will continue to follow these matters closely and keep the Bureau advised of any change in the status of CAMPBELL or KARPIS.

EX 105

REC-39

7-576-15455

24 AUG 15 1958

2-Bureau (7-576)
1-Cincinnati (7-43)
1-Minneapolis (7-30)
1-Kansas City (7-37)

RAS:nk
(5)

53 AUG 21 1958

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 9/17/58

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (7-37)

SUBJECT: *0* BREKID
(OO CI)

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau dated 8/12/58.

On September 15, 1958, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, made available to SA RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD the file of ALVIN KARPIS, an inmate at the penitentiary. A review of this file reflects no change in the status of KARPIS at this institution.

The Kansas City Office will continue to follow this matter closely and keep the Bureau advised of any change in the status of KARPIS at the institution.

- ② Bureau (7-576)
- 1 Cincinnati (7-43)
- 1 Minneapolis (7-30)
- 1 Kansas City (7-37)

RAS:LAC
(5)

REC-54

Ar
7-576-15456

EX-136

12 SEP 22 1958

F47
60 SEP 26 1958

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (7-37)

SUBJECT: BREKID

OO: CI

Re KC letter to Bureau dated 9/17/58.

On 9/23/58 Mr. HAROLD D. FELDKAMP, Assistant Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas advised SA RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD that on 9/18/58 ALVIN KARPIS, an inmate at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas had been transferred to the U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.

The San Francisco Office is requested to verify KARPIS' incarceration at the USP, Alcatraz, Calif. and subsequently advise the Bureau of any change in the status of KARPIS at the institution.

2 Bureau
1 Cincinnati (7-43)
1 Minneapolis (7-30)
2 San Francisco (7-33)
1 Kansas City

RAS:pmc
(7)

EX 105

REC-14

7-576-15457

14 SEP 29 1958

50 OCT 6 1958

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

FROM : *JHw* SAC, KANSAS CITY (7-37)

DATE: 10/21/58

SUBJECT: BREKID
OO CI

Re Kansas City letter to the Bureau 9/26/58,
and 4/10/58.

Kansas City letter 4/10/58, reflects that arrangements have been made with Mr. DAN SMITH, Secretary to the Warden, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, to advise the Kansas City Office when a communication is received from the U. S. Board of Parole.

Kansas City letter dated 9/26/58, reflects that ALVIN KARPIS was transferred from the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, back to the U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.

In view of the above Kansas City is considering this matter RUC.

12

2 - Bureau
1 - Cincinnati (7-43)
1 - Minneapolis (7-30)
1 - San Francisco (7-33)
1 - Kansas City
RAS:sfb
(6)

OCT 20 15 57 PM '58

EX-135

7-576-15458
OCT 24 1958

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 10/21/58

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (7-33)

SUBJECT: BREKID

(OO:CI)

Re Kansas City letter to Director, 9/26/58.

On October 7, 1958, Mr. C. J. McCLEARY, Records Officer, U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California, advised SA ARDEN F. KEITH that inmate ALVIN KARPAVICZ, wa. ALVIN KARPIS, Alcatraz Number 325 AZ, was received at Alcatraz on transfer from the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, on September 21, 1958. Mr. McCLEARY advised that the San Francisco Office will be notified in the event of a change or contemplated change of status of KARPIS.

RUC

- ② - Bureau
 1 - Cincinnati (7-43)(Info)
 1 - Minneapolis (7-30)(Info)
 1 - Kansas City (7-37)(Info)
 1 - San Francisco

AFK/cjb
 (6)

REC-13

7-576-15459

OCT 28 1958

EX-107

OCT 31

3 38 PM '58

53 OCT 31 1958

257

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. NEASE

DATE: NOV 26 1958

FROM : L. E. SHORT

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases,
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS.
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, Victim
KIDNAPING
Bulky Exhibit File Number: 7-576-726

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Clayton _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

We are presently in the process of reviewing all bulky exhibits presently on hand, in order that we may weed out those which will serve no useful purpose by being retained. Inasmuch as a great many of these bulky exhibits pertain to inactive cases and are occupying badly needed space, it is requested that you have the appropriate substantive supervisor review the above-listed bulky exhibit and render a decision as to the retention or disposition of the material contained therein. A notation as to the decision rendered should be placed on this memorandum, and it should be returned to the Filing Unit of the Records Branch, Room 1113, Identification Building. This memorandum will be filed in the case file.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above-listed bulky exhibit be reviewed and a decision rendered as to the retention or disposition of the material contained therein.

WJH:gbh

1-576-
NOT RECORDED
24 DEC 2 1958

J. W. GATHALL
4/1/59

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. MC GUIRE

DATE: MAY 27 1959

FROM : W. G. EAMES

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim
KIDNAPING

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
DeLoach _____
McGuire _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Bulky Exhibit File Number: 7-576-15267

We are in the process of reviewing all bulky exhibits in order that we may dispose of those which serve no further purpose. Inasmuch as many of the bulky exhibits pertain to inactive cases and are occupying badly needed space, it is requested that the appropriate substantive supervisor review the above-listed bulky exhibit and render a decision as to its retention or disposition. A notation as to the decision reached may be placed on this memorandum. The memorandum should be returned to the Filing Unit of the Records Branch, Room 1113, Identification Building, for filing in the case file.

RECOMMENDATION:

That captioned bulky exhibit be reviewed and a decision rendered as to the retention or disposition of the material.

WMM:gbh

*Each connects to
other exhibit &
is a part of the
same case. It
should be kept
in the file.*

*I believe the material
in this file should be
left intact for years
to come because this
is one of the Bureau's
really great cases. Many
of the subjects are presumably
still alive.*

7-576-
NOT RECORDED
2 JUN 9 1959

J. W. MARSHALL

57 JUN 9 1959

1168

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 6/15/59

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (7-37)

SUBJECT: BREKID

OO: Minneapolis

On June 9, 1959, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Registrar, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised SA RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD that VOLNEY E. DAVIS, USP #47101-L, FBI #400 441, was to be released on parole on or after August 4, 1959.

The records at the penitentiary reflect that on June 8, 1959 a Notice of Action of Parole Board was received at the penitentiary, dated June 3, 1959, which stated in part "parole reopened and granted to detainer or to an approved plan if detainer is withdrawn."

The files also contain a parole from the Governor of Oklahoma, received on October 7, 1957, which indicated that the Oklahoma parole would become effective if and when the United States Board of Parole saw fit to parole DAVIS. The parole from the State of Oklahoma was in connection with a detainer filed against DAVIS on June 27, 1935 in favor of Oklahoma State Penitentiary, McAlester, Oklahoma, for murder (a life sentence).

On February 6, 1959, United States Probation Officer for the Northern District of California prepared a parole plan for DAVIS in connection with an attempt at that time to obtain a parole for DAVIS. This plan was as follows:

Residence - [REDACTED]

Employment- Mr. ED GALLEY, owner, El Sobrante.
HAROLD BEE, 3575 San Pablo Dam Road,
El Sobrante (print shop).

2 Bureau EX 100 REC- 70
1 Cincinnati (7-43) (Info)
1 Minneapolis (7-30)
1 San Francisco (7-33) (Info)
2 Kansas City
RAS:slh
(7)

7-576-15460
18 JUN 17 1959

JUN 18 1959

KC 7-37

Advisor - Mr. ARCHIE ALEXANDER, 785 Kern Street,
Richmond, California

United States
Probation Officer - ALBERT WAHL
San Francisco, California

The above is being furnished for information of
Bureau and offices receiving copies of this communication
and the Kansas City Office will continue to follow this
matter and advise the Bureau of developments in this matter.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 7/17/59

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (7-37)

SUBJECT: BREKID

OO: MINNEAPOLIS

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau dated 6/15/59.

On July 14, 1959, Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Registrar, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised SA RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD that VOLNEY E. DAVIS, USP #47101-L, is scheduled to be released on parole on August 4, 1959.

Mr. ZARTER stated that the parole plan which was set out in referenced letter is apparently the parole plan which DAVIS will use on his release.

The above is furnished for information to the Bureau and interested offices and Kansas City Office will continue to follow this matter and report pertinent information.

2 - Bureau (7-576)
1 - Cincinnati (7-43)(INFO)
1 - Minneapolis (7-30)
1 - San Francisco (7-33)(INFO)
2 - Kansas City (7-37)
RAS:mch
(7)

REC-37

7-576-15461

JUL 20 1959

F95
50 JUL 31 1959

D

neal ka to
2/28/59
ET

The Attorney General

July 28, 1959

Director, FBI

ALVIN KARPIS, ET AL.
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

I thought you would be interested in knowing that Volney Davis who was sentenced to life for his part in the kidnaping of Mr. Bremer is scheduled to be released on parole August 4, 1959.

Edward George Bremer was abducted in St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934, and released on February 7, 1934, after payment of \$200,000 ransom. On January 22, 1935, Davis was indicted for conspiracy to transport the victim from Minnesota to Illinois and for the transporting of the victim. He was arrested by Agents of this Bureau in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 6, 1935. While being transported by airplane to Chicago the plane was forced down and Davis escaped. He was again apprehended June 1, 1935, at Chicago. On June 7, 1935, after entering a plea of guilty he was sentenced to life imprisonment in United States District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota.

At the time of the kidnaping Davis was a member of the notorious Karpis-Barker gang. He had a record extending back to February 5, 1919. He was on leave of absence from the State Penitentiary in Oklahoma where he was serving a life sentence for murder.

On December 5, 1952, Davis filed a petition for release on habeas corpus. On January 21, 1953, his petition was denied. On January 25, 1954, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, ordered that a hearing be held on Davis' petition. On August 11, 1954, his motion for an order setting aside his life sentence was denied in the United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota. On November 4, 1955, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, affirmed this decision and on April 23, 1956, the United States Supreme Court denied Davis' writ of certiorari.

The State of Oklahoma has granted Davis a parole which would become effective if and when the United States Board of Parole saw fit to parole Davis. The parole from the State of Oklahoma was in connection with

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
DeLoach _____
McGuire _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
J.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
andy _____

RJG/jdn

MAILED 25
JUL 28 1959
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

REC-33

7-676-15462

The Attorney General

a detainer filed against him on June 27, 1935, in favor of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary for murder (a life sentence).

b7c
We have been advised that the United States Probation Officer, Northern District of California, prepared a parole plan for Davis which is apparently the one he will use upon his release. The plan calls for him to reside with [REDACTED]. He would be employed by Harold Bee in a print shop in El Sobrante. His advisor would be Archie Alexander, Richmond, California, and his United States Probation Officer would be Albert Wahl, San Francisco, California.

**1 - Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh
Deputy Attorney General**

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : THE DIRECTOR

DATE: July 28, 1959

FROM : A. ROSEN

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, ET AL.
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

Tolson ☒
 Belmont ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 McGuire ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Parsons ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Tamm ☒
 Trotter ☒
 W.C. Sullivan ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Holloman ☒
 Gandy ☒

Kansas City by letter 7-17-59, received in the Investigative Division 7-23-59, advised that Carl Zarter, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, notified that office that a definite date of 8-4-59 had been set for the parole of Volney Davis, serving a life sentence for his participation in the kidnaping of Bremer. By letter 6-15-59, received 6-18-59, Kansas City advised Davis was to be released on parole on or after 8-4-59. The Parole Board had already taken action.

On 1-17-34, Bremer was abducted in St. Paul, Minnesota, and released near Rochester, Minnesota, 2-7-34, after payment of \$200,000 ransom. On 1-22-35, Davis was indicted for conspiracy to transport the victim from Minnesota to Illinois and for transporting the victim. He was arrested by Bureau Agents in Kansas City, Missouri, 2-6-35, and transported by airplane to Chicago. En route the plane was forced down and Davis escaped. He was again apprehended 6-1-35 at Chicago. On 6-7-35, after entering a plea of guilty, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in U. S. District Court, St. Paul.

At the time of the kidnaping, Davis was a member of the Karpis-Barker gang. He had an identification record extending back to 2-5-19. He was on a leave of absence from the State Penitentiary in Oklahoma where he was serving a life sentence for murder.

On 12-5-52, Davis filed a petition for release on habeas corpus. He also made a motion for an order setting aside his life sentence. He based his action on the grounds (1) he was not represented by counsel, (2) he was never taken before a U. S. Commissioner, (3) he was never presented with a copy of the indictment prior to trial, (4) he was not thoroughly advised as to his constitutional rights before entering his plea, (5) he did not voluntarily waive right to counsel, (6) he did not know his constitutional rights, (7) he was held incommunicado in a distant city for questioning in chains and in secrecy, and (8) he was led to believe if he entered a plea of guilty he would be given a term of years. On 1-21-53, the petition was denied. On 1-25-54, the U. S. Circuit

152
RJG/jdn/dlb
-5-
2 1959

SENT DIRECTOR
7-27-59

23 AUG 10 1959

Memorandum to the Director

Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, ordered a hearing held on Davis' petition. On 8-11-54, his motion was denied. On 11-4-55, U. S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, affirmed the decision denying Davis' petition and on 4-23-56, the U. S. Supreme Court denied Davis' writ of certiorari.

The U. S. Probation Officer, Northern District of California, has prepared a parole plan for Davis which plan is apparently the one he would use upon his release. The plan calls for him to reside with his

He would be employed by Harold Bee, 3575 San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante (print shop). His advisor would be Archie Alexander, 785 Kern Street, Richmond, California, and his U. S. Probation Officer would be Albert Wahl, San Francisco, California.

Davis' identification record, FBI number 400441, reveals he was born 1-29-02, in Oklahoma, which would make him 57 years of age. The State of Oklahoma has granted Davis a parole which would become effective if and when the U. S. Board of Parole saw fit to parole Davis. The parole from the State of Oklahoma was in connection with a detainer filed against him on 6-27-35 in favor of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary for murder (a life sentence).

ACTION TAKEN:

A letter has been directed to the Attorney General calling to his attention the fact that Davis is to be paroled August 4, 1959. The Attorney General has been furnished with background information concerning Davis.

*This certainly is
an instance of gross
abuse of parole in the
Federal² area.*

TRUE COP.

69

Dear Gentlemen:

I would like to find out more about how
you captured one of the worst killers "The Blaster."
Could you please send me anything about the capture.

Thank you

/s/ Chris Hardner

Dear Gentlemen:

*I would like to find out more
about how you captured one of the worst
killers "The Blaster". Could you please
send me anything about the capture.*

Thank you JSD
Chris Hardner

REC-95

EX-110

2 FEB 17 1961

7-576-15464

7-576-15464

February 16, 1981

Mr. Chris Hardner
257 Gridby Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Hardner:

Your card postmarked February 11, 1961, has been received.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI has no material which we can currently send you relating to Arthur "Doc" Barker, to whom I believe you are referring. For your information, however, I prepared an article entitled "The Blaster," concerning "Doc" Barker which appeared in the September, 1946, issue of "The Reader's Digest," and you may be able to secure a copy of it through your local public libraries.

You may also wish to refer to "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead, which sets forth the stories of numerous notorious criminals, including that of the Barker-Karpis gang.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 10

FEB 16 1961

COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Parsons _____
Mohr _____
Belmont _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI
REC'D MAY 1968

FBI
REC'D MAIL ROOM

V. K. 1211

PH

July 21, 1961

Airtel

REC- 17

To: SAC, Jacksonville

From: Director, FBI

FRANCES L. WILLIAMS

TRENTON, FLORIDA

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

BUDED 7-26-61

Enclosed are two copies of a letter dated 7-18-61 received from captioned individual. Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles, and this letter has not been answered.

Your office is instructed to ascertain the writer's identity and reputation through brief, discreet inquiries limited to public sources and established contacts, insuring that she not become aware of the Bureau's interest. Thereafter, unless reason develops dictating to the contrary, she should be contacted and her letter acknowledged for me. Express appreciation for her interest in bringing the photographs in her possession to our attention but inform her tactfully that we have numerous photographs already of the subjects in question. If, of course, she volunteers to make copies of them available to us, they can be accepted. If she is established to be a reputable person, the attached Interesting Case write-up can be given her. She should be advised of the confidential nature of data appearing in our files, but her attention can be directed to Whitehead's "The FBI Story" which answers the questions she has raised. Forward desired data, together with the results of your contact, under same caption to reach the Bureau no later than 7-26-61.

Enclosures (3)

~~Follow up made for 7-26-61~~

NOTE: No record in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent on spellings of either Frances or Francis L. Williams.

DC L:bir

(6)

person _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Malone _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

1967

TRUE COPY

Trenton, Florida
July 18, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington. D. C.

Gentlemen:

Fred Barker

I am wondering if you have time, and will answer inquires like mine, and if you will give out information about past gangs operating in Florida?

I have been a commercial photographer in this area for the past 10 years, and have in my possession a set of pictures of the capture of the (Ma Barker) Gang. There are 8 photographs in all. They are as follows:

- (1) Ma Barker & Son Fred on Slab in an Ocala Fla undertaking establishment,
- (2) Fred Barker on slab, Face & Neck packed with cotton.
- (3) House they were captured at, (side view) with F. B. I. Agents removing bodies of Gang.
- (4) House with F. B. I. agents with drawn guns, Just before capture. (Front view of house).
- (5) Ma Barker on Slab in undertaking establishment.
- (6) Ma Barker & Fred head view with bullet holes showing.
- (7) Ma Barker, Head & chest with bullet holes showing.
- (8) Fred Barker - Head & chest with 14 bullet holes showing.

All the above pictures are originals. They are contact prints, from size 616 film. The inside shots are time exposures, with only light from an overhanging bulb. (no flash). They are all good and sharp and all photos are in perfect condition. The photographer is unknown to me.

EX-113

REC-17

7-576-15465

Could you please give me some information about this gang? How long they operated, Where, How many killed, Captured, and also, Do you know of these photos? Do the F. B. I. Files contain a set of these prints. I would be grateful if you could send me this information.

*sent to Jacksonville
7-21-61
and DCL 1 line
STC-7-21-61
jws*

With Higest Regards s JUL 24 1961

Frances L. Williams
Trenton, Fla

/s/

gfa

V J
Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Washington. D. C.

Gentlemen:

I am wondering if you have time, and will answer inquiries like mine, and if you will give out information about past gangs operating in Florida?

I have been a commercial photographer in this area for the past 10 years, and have in my possession a set of pictures of the capture of the (Mr Barker) Gang. There are 8 photographs in all. They are as follows:

- (1) Mr Barker & son Fred on slab in an Ocala Fla undertaking establishment.
- (2) Fred Barker on slab, face & neck packed with cotton
- (3) House they were captured at, (side view) with F.B.I. Agents removing bodies of Gang.
- (4) House with F.B.I. Agents with drawn guns, just before capture. (Front view of house).
- (5) Mr Barker on slab in undertaking establishment.
- (6) Mr Barker & Fred, head view with bullet holes showing.

aited to Jack ...
7-21-61
and DC 4/1/61

3TC

CORRESPONDENCE

- (7) Max Barker, No. 12 + chest with 1 bullet hole showing.
- (8) Fred Barker - Head + chest with 14 bullet holes showing.

all the above pictures are original's, they are contact prints, from size 616 film. The inside shots are time exposures, with only light from an overhanging bulb. (no flash). They are all good and sharp and all photos are in perfect condition. The photographer is unknown to me.

Could you please give me some information about this gang? How long they operated, where, how many killed, captured, and also, do you know of these photos? Do the F.B.I. files contain a set of these prints. I would be grateful if you could send me this information

With Highest Regards
Francis L. Williams
Trenton, Fla

FBI

Date: 7/26/61

Transmit the following in AIRTEL

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (94-53)

RE: FRANCES L. WILLIAMS
TRENTON, FLORIDA

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)
(BUDED 7/26/61) MAS. W. J. WILLIAMS

FRED BARKER

all pgs

Re Bureau airtel to Jacksonville 7/21/61.

DUNLAP: The following inquiry was made by SA HOMER E.

[REDACTED]

RUC.
Bureau
1-Jacksonville
HED-beh
(4)

Following
Killed in
Car

REC-23

7-576-15466

EX-107

18 JUL 28 1961

no action

62 AUG 2

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

CORRESPONDENCE

b7C

[REDACTED]

There is no police department or credit bureau in Trenton, Fla.

b7C

[REDACTED]

In view of the above information, FRANCES L. WILLIAMS was not contacted and her letter to the bureau, dated 7/18/61, acknowledged.

*no further
action warranted
see*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 10-11-61

FROM : M. Jones

SUBJECT: HERMAN ENGELHARDT
 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
 WILBURN J. PITTS
 CLAIM OF "ASSISTANCE" IN
 THE ARREST OF ALVIN KARPIS

Tolson ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Callahan ☒
 Conrad ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Evans ☒
 Malone ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Sullivan ☒
 Tavel ☒
 Trotter ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Ingram ☒
 Gandy ☒

We received on October 9, 1961, an undated letter from Herman Engelhardt stating that a close friend, Wilburn J. Pitts, had told him of having unwittingly assisted the Director in the capture of Alvin Karpis in New Orleans about 1935. Engelhardt requests the Director to confirm Pitts' story since he (Engelhardt) plans to offer the incident in Pitts' name to the Gary Moore television program, "I've Got A Secret."

Briefly, Pitts, described as aged 61 at this time, claimed that he was about to enter the apartment building at 3341 Canal Street, in New Orleans to sell magazines when the Director personally accosted him and requested that he not enter. Pitts asked for an explanation and when it was not given, entered the building and knocked at the first door which was Karpis' apartment. He claimed the Director observed his contact at the Karpis apartment and when he left the building again was stopped by the Director and showed a picture of Karpis which he identified as the man he had spoken to in the first apartment. He alleged that after Karpis was arrested the Director invited him to the New Orleans FBI Office for a discussion and explanation.

Pitts' claim, of course, is not true. The Director and other members of the apprehension party arrived at the apartment building in which Karpis was residing at approximately 5:30 p.m., on May 1, 1936, and before they even had a chance to leave their cars, Karpis and an associate came out of the apartment building. The actual apprehension was made at an automobile in front of the apartment building. The address of this building was 3343 Canal Street instead of 3341 as indicated by Pitts. Facts of the arrest are set out on page 109 of "The FBI Story."

There is a possibility that Pitts may have had an encounter with an Agent prior to the apprehension since the apartment building in which Karpis resided was under observation for several hours prior to the arrest. There is no information in Bufiles, however, to confirm this.

Bufiles contain no identifiable record on Pitts or Engelhardt.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the enclosed inabsence letter be sent to Engelhardt.

Enclosure

DWB:kml

10-11-61

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REC-46

7-156-15468

October 11, 1961

Mr. Herman Engelhardt
Regional Director
Continental Life Insurance Company
Suite 825, Commerce Building
Third and Laurel Streets
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Engelhardt:

Your letter postmarked October 7, 1961,
was received just before Mr. Hoover was called out of the
city, and he asked me to acknowledge it for him.

The information furnished you by Mr. Pitts
regarding the capture of Alvin Karpis is not correct. The
facts of this arrest are stated on page 109 of the book by
Mr. Don Whitehead entitled "The FBI Story."

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

1 - New Orleans - Enclosure

NOTE: See Jones to DeLoach Memo same date captioned "Herman Engelhardt,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Wilburn J. Pitts, Claim of "Assistance" in the Arrest
of Alvin Karpis."

olson _____
elmont _____
ehr _____
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e. Room _____
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DWB:kmd

(4)

ENCLOSURE

62 OCT 20 1961

MAILED 20
OCT 11 1961
COMM-FBI

us

AM

guy

lure

OCT 11 2 45 PM '61
FBI
REC'D-READING ROOM

REC'D DE LOACH
FBI
OCT 11 2 21 PM '61

MR. TOLSON: ✓

This is a copy of the letter on the Karpis case which you inquired about. It came through here last night and Mr. Hyde sent it on for reply. Mr. Jones now has the original to prepare the reply.

DSS ✓

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Gurnea	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Jones	✓
Mr. Mumford	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1935

file

7-576-15468

When Mr. Pitts returned to the sidewalk you personally again accosted him, took him by the arm, showed him a photo of Karpis and asked if that was the man he had talked to, which Pitts acknowledged it was and told you that there was also two other people in his apartment, a man and a woman. Thus Pitts unknowingly positively identified Karpis and the apartment he occupied in the building. Karpis and his accomplices were captured without resistance. You later invited Mr. Pitts down to the New Orleans F. B. I. offices for a discussion and explanation.


This unwitting identification of Karpis and his apartment to you by Mr. Pitts should have been of some material value and aid to you and your staff in the successful capture of Karpis without a struggle.

This incident and train of events is what I propose to submit to the Garry Moore T. V. program "I've Got a Secret" as a spectacular and dramatic "secret" for T. V. showing. If you will, I'll appreciate your confirming these facts to me for this sole purpose.

Cordially yours,


Herman Engelhardt, C. L. U.

I certify to the above events and facts as true and correct.


Wilburn J. Pitts, Baton Rouge, La.

Distinguished Insurance Service for Over Quarter Century

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Justice Department
Washington, D. C.

Personal

Dear Sir:

A close personal friend here in Baton Rouge, Wilburn J. Pitts, has told me of an experience and contact with you personally about the year 1935. If you will, I'll appreciate your confirming these facts with me as he relates them to me. The purpose of my asking you to confirm these facts is that I plan to offer the incident and Mr. Pitts' name to the commercial T. V. program "I've Got a Secret" conducted by Garry Moore over the C B S network.

The related facts are these:

About 1935 Mr. Pitts unwittingly and unknowingly rendered assistance to you and members of your staff in the capture of the then infamous criminal Alvin Karpis in New Orleans, Louisiana. You personally directed the capture.

Mr. Pitts (now age 61) was then a magazine salesman and approached the apartment building, No. 3341 Canal St., corner of Jefferson Davis Parkway, to solicit its occupants for magazine sales just as you and your men surrounded the building. You personally accosted Mr. Pitts at the building entrance and requested that he not enter. Pitts asking you for an explanation of your request which was not given indignantly refused, proceeded into the building and carried on his solicitations. Unknowingly and coincidentally he started his solicitation by first knocking on the door of Alvin Karpis' apartment. You observed this contact at Karpis' apartment door and understandably became suspicious of Mr. Pitts.

*I never heard
of this →
10/10*

When Mr. Pitts returned to the sidewalk you personally again accosted him, took him by the arm, showed him a photo of Karpis and asked if that was the man he had talked to, which Pitts acknowledged it was and told you that there was also two other people in his apartment, a man and a woman. Thus Pitts unknowingly positively identified Karpis and the apartment he occupied in the building. Karpis and his accomplices were captured without resistance. You later invited Mr. Pitts down to the New Orleans F. B. I. offices for a discussion and explanation.

This unwitting identification of Karpis and his apartment to you by Mr. Pitts should have been of some material value and aid to you and your staff in the successful capture of Karpis without a struggle.

This incident and train of events is what I propose to submit to the Garry Moore T. V. program "I've Got a Secret" as a spectacular and dramatic "secret" for T. V. showing. If you will, I'll appreciate your confirming these facts to me for this sole purpose.

Cordially yours ,

Herman Engelhardt, C. L. U.

I certify to the above events and facts as true and correct.

Wilburn J. Pitts, Baton Rouge, La.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JAN 30 1962
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Evans _____
Mr. Malone _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Ingram _____
Miss Gandy _____

URGENT 1-30-62 12-14 AM PST

TO DIRECTOR, FBI /7-576/

FROM SAC, SAN FRANCISCO /7-33/ 2 PAGES

BREKID. OO CINCINNATI. RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TODAY.

WARDEN OLIN G. BLACKWELL, U. S. PENITENTIARY, ALCATRAZ ISLAND, CALIF., ADVISED THIS DATE ALVIN KARPAVICZ, AKA ALVIN KARPIS, FIRST RECEIVED AT ALCATRAZ FROM U. S. PENITENTIARY, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, AUGUST SIX, NINETEEN THIRTY-SIX, ON LIFE SENTENCE. TRANSFERRED TO LEAVENWORTH ON FEBRUARY, TWENTY-SEVEN, NINETEEN FIFTY-EIGHT, AND RETURNED TO ALCATRAZ ON SEPT. TWENTY-ONE, FIFTY-EIGHT. HAS ADHERED TO REGID DISCIPLINE OF ALCATRAZ. HAS BEEN ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE SINCE JULY TWENTY-SIX, NINETEEN FIFTY-ONE, BUT WAIVED A PAROLE HEARING BY U. S. BOARD OF PAROLES, UNTIL JULY FIVE, SIXTY-ONE, WHEN HIS PAROLE WAS DENIED. HE WILL BE CONSIDERED EACH YEAR BY U. S. BOARD OF PAROLES FOR SAME. KARPIS HAS BEEN TRYING TO ESTABLISH PAROLE PLAN BY HAVING RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO WILL ASSIST HIM IN REHABILITATION ON OUTSIDE LIFE IF SAME GRANTED. HAS BEEN CORRESPONDING WITH FRANK

END PAGE ONE

63 FEB 7 1962

REC-4

EX 101

7-576-15469
JAN 31 1962
6-28

PAGE TWO

A. ROBERTS, DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC REHABILITATIONS SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC., ONE FIVE, NOTRE DAME ST., EAST, MONTREAL, CANADA, WHO HAS INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN ASSISTING KARPIS IF HE IS PAROLED AND DEPORTED TO CANADA. ROBERTS EVIDENTLY HAS BEEN CORRESPONDING WITH BOARD OF PAROLE, WASH., D. C., IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP SOME SOLID RELEASE PLANS ACCEPTABLE TO BOARD OF PAROLE. WARDEN BLACKWELL CONSIDERS PAROLE OF KARPIS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE, AS LONG AS KARPIS AT ALCATRAZ. KARPIS APPROVED FOR TRANSFER TO USP MC NEIL ISLAND, STEILACOOM, WASH., AND WILL BE SENT THERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH FIRST SHIPMENT OF PRISONERS. INFORMATION AS TO KARPIS-S PAROLE STATUS, IF DESIRED, SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM U. S. BOARD OF PAROLE, WASH., D. C., WHO WILL HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION AS SAME NOT AVAILABLE AT ALCATRAZ. AM COPIES TO CINCINNATI, MINNEAPOLIS, AND KANSAS CITY.

TIME ORIG 11-55 AM THIS DATE CH TIME DUE TO TROUBLE ON LINE

I END AND ACK PLS.

3-21 PM OK FBI WA MSL

TU DISC

FEB 2 1962

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MemorandumTO : Mr. Belmont *HB*

DATE: January 31, 1962

FROM : A. Rosen *AR*SUBJECT: PAROLE OF ALVIN KARPIS

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Malone	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

With regard to the reason for the transfer of Karpis from Alcatraz Island, California, Penitentiary to the McNeil Island, Washington, Penitentiary, SAC Price of our San Francisco Office ascertained from Warden Olin G. Blackwell, U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California, that Karpis has been incarcerated in Alcatraz for a number of years and has caused no trouble.

Karpis has been in Alcatraz longer than any other prisoner at the present time. He has served over twenty years on the "Rock." The average time served by a prisoner in Alcatraz is approximately five years. The Warden commented that Karpis is the only one of the "old gang" from the thirties still there.

Since he has proved over a period of years that he is not a supervisory problem, he is considered to have earned the right for removal to another penitentiary where the discipline is not as severe as it is in Alcatraz. McNeil Island is still considered a maximum security prison. While Karpis' transfer to McNeil Island has been approved, he will be sent there in the near future when a group of prisoners are assembled for transfer.

WBWige
(6)

REC-14

7-576-15490

EX 101

25 FEB 6 1962

31 FEB 12 1962

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont *AB*

DATE: January 31, 1962

FROM : A. Rosen *Rosen*SUBJECT: PAROLE OF ALVIN KARPVICZ, AKA ALVIN KARPIS *E6-PC*

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Malone	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

This is to advise that prison officials at Alcatraz and unofficial inquiry of the Board of Parole indicate that there is no plan for the parole of Alvin Karpis in the immediate future and he will not be considered again for parole until July, 1962.

Warden Olin G. Blackwell, U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California, advised that Karpis was received at Alcatraz from the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, August 6, 1936, on a life sentence. He was transferred to Leavenworth February 27, 1958, and returned to Alcatraz on September 21, 1958. Karpis has adhered to rigid discipline at Alcatraz and was eligible for parole July 26, 1951, but waived parole hearing until July 5, 1961, when his parole was denied.

Karpis will be considered for parole each year. He has been trying to establish contact with a responsible individual who will assist him in setting up a parole plan and in rehabilitation if he is released. Karpis has been corresponding with Frank A. Roberts, Director, Catholic Rehabilitations Service of the Federation of Catholic Charities, Incorporated, 15 Notre Dame Street, East, Montreal, Canada, who has indicated his interest in assisting Karpis if he is paroled and deported to Canada. Warden Blackwell considers parole of Karpis highly improbable as long as Karpis is at Alcatraz; however, Karpis has been approved for transfer to the U. S. Penitentiary at McNeil Island, Washington, and will be sent there in the near future.

The Board of Parole, Washington, D. C., has unofficially advised that there is no plan for the immediate parole of Karpis and his case will not be considered again until July, 1962.

Inquiry will be made as to the reason for the contemplated transfer of Karpis to McNeil Island.

FDT:mal
(7)

MB
FEB 20 1962
RC PD

REC-23
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JAM
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UBW

7-576-PS 15471
FEB 2 1962
706

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 1-29-62

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: PAROLE OF ALVIN KARPIS

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Malone ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Ingram ☒
Gandy ☒

The 7 a. m. news broadcast over Radio Station WMAL indicated that Alvin Karpis, who has been in prison for around 25 years, may be released on a deportation parole to his home town of Montreal, Canada. No additional details were furnished.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

1 - M. A. Jones

GEM:jar
(3)

EX 100

REC-23

7-576-15472
FEB 2 1962

52 FEB 15 1962

CORRESPONDENCE

174 Cote des Neiges Road,
Montreal 247,
March 16, 1971.

Editor,
The Montreal Star
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir:

The only real humour in Karpis' sordid memoirs was the line where he said, "I have nothing but contempt for J. Edgar Hoover." That really cracked me up! I suppose it has been echoed down through the years by every rapist, murderer, kidnapper, drug peddler, Kaffiosist and communist around the world. AND HEREEND WE FIND this thug's impression as though it were the gospel truth--- "Hoover is the epitome of the J. Edgar Hoover Legend."

Karpis seems to have an almost phenomenal memory for details of events that took place over forty years ago. Really remarkable. What a pity that such a talent didn't have been channelled into something more useful than evading the law. Whether or not his account of Hoover's part in his arrest is reliable, is something the reader will have to decide for himself. Not everything that appears in a newspaper is infallible. For two years now we have been brain-washed on a "Black Panther" to wipe out the Black Panthers; almost every liberal newspaper around the world has carried reports of the 26 Panthers allegedly murdered by the police. After intensive investigation, this number has been reduced to two who have been killed by police in defence, and such top-ranking newspapers as the NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST are bending over backwards, editorially, to apologise for what they have admitted to be "irresponsible reporting" on their part.

So, whether or not the account of Mr. Hoover's activities as reported in the "Black Panther" is reliable, the account of Mr. Karpis, forty years ago, as a "right, law-abiding citizen of the community" like Karpis, forty years ago, is open to question. My own reaction is rather subtle. I would compare the two men's lives and ask yourself, "Who has made the biggest and best contribution to society?" The man who has built the FBI up into what is probably the most respected law-enforcement agencies in the world, or a self-confessed

7-546-
ENCLOSURE

and that who has cost the country millions of dollars, while making his life out of that of others.

For my part, I have no doubts about which of the two "I have nothing but contempt for!" And, incidentally, as long as such characters can get paid for recounting their crimes, let's not try to kid our young people that crime doesn't pay.

M. Moorhouse

M. Moorhouse

Mrs. Marion Moorhouse
Apt. 605
4874 Cote des Neiges Rd.
Montreal 247, P. Q.

cc: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director ✓
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

#803,
4874 Cote des Neiges Road,
Montreal 247,
March 16, 197.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Walters
Mr. Soyars
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For the past two or 3 weekends the reading public of Montreal has been "treated" (?) to the memoirs of Alvin Karpis. However, his closing remarks (see enclosed article) were too much for me so I have today sent a letter to the MONTREAL STAR and THE WEEKEND MAGAZINE expressing my views on his version of the FBI in general and you in particular.

In a day when it seems to be the 'in thing' to denigrate you and your organization, I feel it is time for Christian people and law-abiding citizens to take up cudgels on behalf of the police. I doubt that the Star will publish my letter---I've had little success getting into print with them heretofore as I am too "right wing" to suit their editorial policy. However, I can only try.

In closing, I might say that I have been made keenly aware of much of the communist tactics by reading your book "MASTERS OF DECEIT" and John Stomer's books as well as Dr. Carl McIntyre's radio broadcasts and paper, THE CHRISTIAN BEACON. It is a mystery to me that government departments try to silence men like these who are really engaged in alerting the public to the communist conspiracy---but I suppose these various departments are already so infected themselves that they regard McIntyre, you and others as their enemies.

May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,

Milton Moorhouse
(Mrs. Milton Moorhouse)

ENCLOSURE
ENCLOSURE

Mrs. Milton Moorhouse
4874 Cote des Neiges Rd.
Montreal 247, P. Q.

59 JUL 1 1971

*col-1 mml
3-24-71
Jewell*

7-576-

NOT RECORDED
202 JUN 28 1971

CORRESPONDENCE

ORIGINAL FILED IN

MADE HOO

And the FBI director's fame is based on lies, according to Alvin "Old Creepy" Karpis, the last of the great gangsters of the 30s

Among the terrible men of US crime, Alvin Karpis, a Canadian, may have been the most terrible. The very mention of his name struck terror into the hearts of Depression-day America. US Public Enemy No. 1, wanted for murder in 14 states, Karpis finally went to prison on a kidnapping charge. He spent 33 years behind bars. In January, 1959, he was paroled and deported to Canada, where he went to work on his life story with Bill Trent. His book is being published in the US by Coward-McCann as The Alvin Karpis Story, and simultaneously in Canada by McClelland and Stewart under the title, Public Enemy Number One, The Alvin Karpis Story. In excerpts from the book last weekend, Karpis told about his life with the famous Ma Barker. Today, in a concluding episode, he straightens out some misconceptions about his arrest — and calls FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover a liar.

THE LAST MONTHS of 1935 and the early ones of 1936 were hectic. I had to keep moving. It was important to present the FBI with a moving target.

They carried the search into almost every state in the union. In New York City, for example, 40 agents surrounded an apartment house on a tip that I was inside. They dragged a young guy out and threw him in jail. His crime: He owned a car with Oklahoma plates. They thought it was my car.

In Cleveland and Toledo, they ransacked all my old haunts. In Chicago, they watched my parents' place. In Little Rock, Arkansas, 60 agents got together for what FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said was a regional conference. I learned they were following up a lead that I was holed up there. I was close. I was in nearby Hot Springs.

Freddie Hunter, the guy I took up with after the feds shut up my old friends, Freddie Barker and Ma Barker, in Florida, was a real edgy about

We didn't settle in any one house for too long. We kept shifting locations. Fortunately, I had a good friend named Grace Goldstein, who was always finding a new address for Freddie and me. Grace was a peroxide blonde who ran a hooker joint that took up two floors of the Mattered Hotel, next door to the luxurious Arlington Hotel, in Hot Springs. She entertained all the top crooks and many politicians.

Grace was well-connected and when she found a place for us, it was usually a good one. Like this place on Malvern Road, which runs between Hot Springs and Malvern, Arkansas. The house, built on a hill overlooking Lake Catherine, was lovely. It belonged to a wealthy real estate operator named Woodcock and came equipped with two safety features: bright outside lights and two barking dogs.

There was a double threat for us in Arkansas. Not only had the FBI moved in but so had the postal investigators. The latter had been hot after me because of a payroll train caper, and they were handling the search with better results than the feds.

The postal guys were a busy bunch and somehow or other they got onto Freddie's girl Connie. They hired a fellow to take her out on the town with instructions to fill her full of booze and let her talk. Connie, though, was too smart. She poured the liquor under the table and it was the undercover man who drank too much. He told her who he was, and then suggested that the two of them turn Freddie in, collect a reward, and run off together. She brushed him off and reported back to us.

Grace was the next person to report some funny business.

"The FBI paid a guy I know \$1,000 to take me out," she said. "He's an undertaker."

"A mortician?" I asked. I was surprised and had to think it over. "They think I know where you are and that I'll tell this guy," she said.

ENCLOSURE

MOOVER'S

Moover's time is based on lies,
in "Old Creepy" Karpis,
about gangsters of the 30s

...the, Alvin Karpis, most terrible, terror into the ... Public En- ... states, Karpis ... charge. He ... 1939, he ... where he went ... His book is ... and McCann as ... ously in Can- ... the time. Pub- ... Karpis Story. In ... Karpis told ... Today, in ... out some mis- ... FBI Direc-

...the early ones ... moving. It was ... living target. ... my sake in ... example, 40 ... a tip that ... guy out and ... our with ... our. ... needed all my ... my parents' ... got to ... Moover said ... they were fol- ... there. I was

...with after the ... the ... up every man

We didn't settle in any one house for too long. We kept shifting locations. Fortunately, I had a good friend named Grace Goldstein, who was always finding a new address for Freddie and me. Grace was a peroxide blonde who ran a hooker joint that took up two floors of the Hatterie Hotel, next door to the luxurious Arlington Hotel, in Hot Springs. She entertained all the top crooks and many politicians.

Grace was well-connected and when she found a place for us, it was usually a good one. Like this place on Mulvorn Road, which runs between Hot Springs and Mulvorn, Arkansas. The house, built on a hill overlooking Lake Catherine, was lovely. It belonged to a wealthy real estate operator named Woodcock and came equipped with two safety features: bright outside lights and two barking dogs.

There was a double threat for us in Arkansas. Not only had the FBI moved in but so had the postal investigators. The latter had been hot after me because of a payroll train caper, and they were handling the search with better results than the feds.

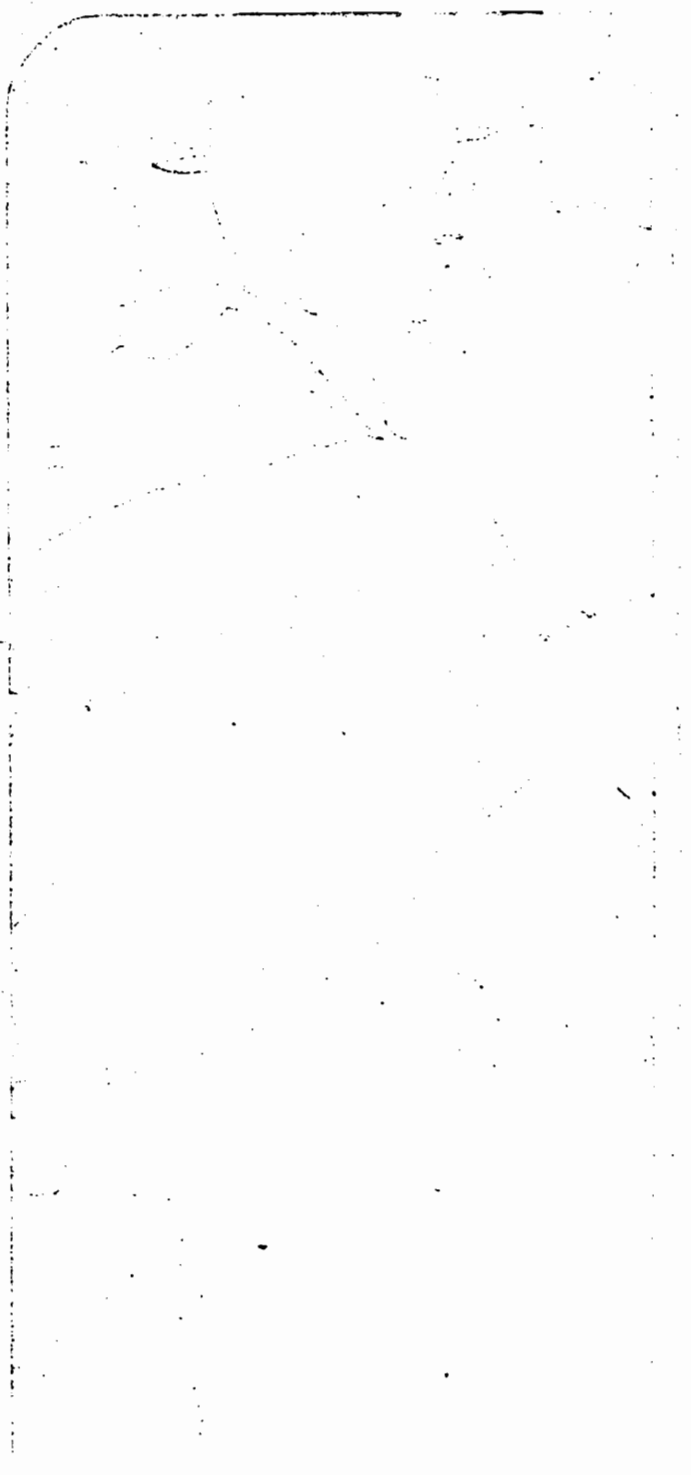
The postal guys were a busy bunch and somehow or other they got onto Freddie's girl Connie. They hired a fellow to take her out on the town with instructions to fill her full of booze and let her talk. Connie, though, was too smart. She poured the liquor under the table and it was the undercover man who drank too much. He told her who he was, and then suggested that the two of them turn Freddie in, collect a reward, and run off together. She brushed him off and reported back to us.

Grace was the next person to report some funny business.

"The FBI paid a guy I know \$1,000 to take me out," she said. "He's an undertaker."

"A mortician?" I asked. I was surprised and had to laugh.

"They think I know where you are and that I'll tell this guy," she said.



...the story with Bill Tracy. The book is being published in the US by Coward-McCann as The Alvin Karpis Story, and simultaneously in Canada by McClelland and Stewart under the title, Public Enemy Number One, The Alvin Karpis Story. In excerpts from the book last weekend, Karpis told about his life with the famous Ma Barker. Today, in a concluding episode, he straightens out some misconceptions about his arrest — and calls FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover a liar.



THE LAST MONTHS of 1935 and the early ones of 1936 were hectic. I had to keep moving. It was important to present the FBI with a moving target.

They carried the search into almost every state in the union. In New York City, for example, 40 agents surrounded an apartment house on a tip that I was inside. They dragged a young guy out and threw him in jail. His crime: He owned a car with Oklahoma plates. They thought it was my car.

In Cleveland and Toledo, they ransacked all my old haunts. In Chicago, they watched my parents' place. In Little Rock, Arkansas, 60 agents got together for what FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said was a regional conference. I learned they were following up a lead that I was holed up there. I was close. I was in nearby Hot Springs.

Freddie Hunter, the guy I took up with after the feds shot up my old friends, Freddie Barker and Ma Barker, in Florida, was getting pretty edgy about Chicago. He was really nervous when we rented this place at an intersection in Hot Springs. There was a stop sign at the corner and every time there was a cop I'd take on the street, Freddie would spring up, grab his gun and run to the window.

Grace was well connected and when she found a place for us, it was usually a good one. Like this place on Malvern Road, which runs between Hot Springs and Malvern, Arkansas. The house, built on a hill overlooking Lake Catherine, was lovely. It belonged to a wealthy real estate operator named Woodcock and came equipped with two safety features: bright outside lights and two barking dogs.

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"They think I know where you are and that I'll tell this guy," she said.

Freddie and I didn't sit still long. We took off for Texas with Connie. Before we left, I arranged with Grace to meet her in two weeks' time on a side road that ran into the Hot Springs-Arkadelphia highway. Then, while we were away, the FBI raided our

Continued

Hoover, at left, escorting Karpis steadily

PUTATION



STATION

By Alvin Karpis
with Bill Trent
Weekend Magazine

Photos by UPI

after his capture in New Orleans. Hoover said he personally made the arrest, but Karpis says the director's deputies did the job themselves.

...things. I read about it in the papers, but Grace confirmed the story when we met.

She was pale and exhausted when I saw her on ... the next day one morning, she said, six or seven men had burst into her room in the Hatterie ... some of the men were from the FBI, the rest from the prison service, and they started grilling her. They wanted to know where I was and threatened her with jail, beatings and all kinds of trouble. She kept her mouth shut.

Then later, she made a mistake. She went up to the house on Malvern Road one night to pick up something I'd left there. She turned on a light. She shouldn't have touched a switch. I'd warned her not to. The FBI, as I suspected, had found the place and were watching it. They saw the lights and figured I was there. They let Grace leave and then they hit the house.

They really did a job, according to Grace. They rained bullets in the windows. They blew out the door. They lobbed in some flares. One flare landed on a bed and set a fire. It kept on burning and some agents went in to put out the fire. That was when they discovered the house was empty.

J. Edgar Hoover got into hot water over the wreckage of the house. A US senator named Job Robinson happened to be a close friend of Woodcock, the guy who owned the house, and the senator blasted Hoover on the floor of the Senate for the FBI's failure to be certain someone was in the house before they launched their assault. The rumor was that Hoover himself had led the attack, but this was never confirmed.

It was a bad time for Hoover all around for a couple of weeks. He also took a public pounding for hiring a press agent named Courtney Riley Cooper who was paid a fabulous salary to shine up Hoover's image. Some senators wanted to know something about Hoover's other expenses, too — for instance, the amount he had spent on stool pigeons to try to track me down.

I enjoyed reading about Hoover's difficulties. But I also had my own. The heat was really on and I couldn't escape it. I couldn't relax even on a holiday trip with Grace through Florida and Mississippi. I kept hearing radio bulletins that jerked me back to reality. On one occasion, for instance, I heard that the district attorney in St. Paul had gathered enough evidence to indict me for the kidnapping of William Hamm, the brewer, back in June, 1933.

I still kept an eye open for possible scores. In Mississippi, I saw a big construction project going up called the Flomwick Dam that must have had a

In New Orleans, I drove to Freddie's ... on Jefferson Parkway. It was a strange ... mean, I knew there was something in the air ... couldn't explain what it was.

Freddie came out ... in a couple of incidents ... increased my anxiety. He said that a couple of ... earlier his landlady had suddenly called at the ... ment. She kept some of her furniture in one of Freddie's spare rooms, and she said she wanted to ... it to a buyer. Freddie agreed, and the landlady brought in a sharp-looking character in his late 30s or early 40s.

"Now that I think of the guy," Freddie said, "he didn't seem like the type who'd be interested in a bunch of second-hand furniture."



Grace Goldstein wouldn't talk

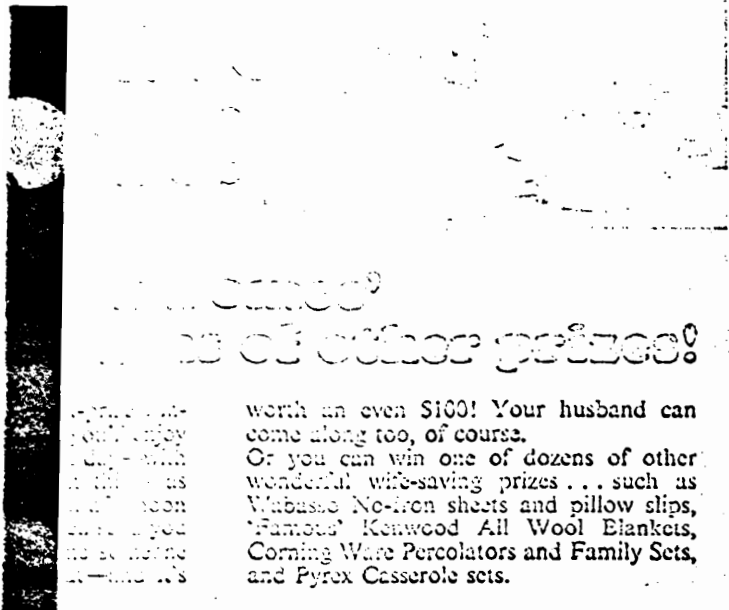
Only the day before, Freddie went on, he'd noticed four guys carrying suitcases to an apartment on the floor above. The janitor said they were Harvester salesman who were keeping the apartment for some girls. The story made sense but I didn't like it. The furniture man and the Harvester guys could easily have been feds.

Freddie and I went out for a drive. I wanted to take my car to a garage for servicing. But first I had some guns in the trunk that I wanted to switch to Freddie's car. I made the switch out at Lake Pontchartrain. I kept my .45 with me, however, and we drove back to the United Motors Garage in New Orleans. I left my car there and Freddie and I took a slow drive around town in his car.

"I'm not sure," Freddie said after a few minutes, "but I think somebody's tailing us. The car's got two guys in it. It's a maroon coupe."

I had seen a coupe at Lake Pontchartrain, and it

Continued



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seemed to me now that it had been maroon.

"Circle around and see what happens," I said.

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days earlier. I said we were overreacting.

We took the berries back to Connie and sat
around for a while. The temperature was in the high
80s and I couldn't keep still. I went out to the
drugstore and bought a pack of Chesterfields and a
copy of Reader's Digest. There was a guy on a
bench down the street in a suit and felt hat. Strange
clothes for such a hot day. I walked back to the
apartment.

I told the garage I'd be back for my car at 5 P.M.,
and at 4.50, I asked Freddie to drive down with me.
It was too hot to wear a jacket, so I left it hung over
a chair. Now, of course, I couldn't carry my .45.
There'd be no place to conceal it. I took it out of my
belt and slipped it under the cushion of the sofa. I
put on my straw hat, and Freddie and I walked out
to the sidewalk.

The man in the felt hat was still on the bench.
Now there were two guys on the sidewalk, beefy,
tough-looking men in their 50s. We walked past
them to the car. I slid in behind the wheel and Fred-
die got in beside me. I rolled down my window for
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seemed to me now that it had been maroon.

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The man in the felt hat was still on the bench. Now there were two guys on the sidewalk, beefy, tough-looking men in their 50s. We walked past them to the car. I slid in behind the wheel and Freddie got in beside me. I rolled down my window for air. I put the key in the ignition and turned it. I put my foot on the starter and, at that exact moment, a car cut sharply in front of ours and stopped. Five men climbed out.

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"All right, Karpis. Keep your hands on the steering wheel."

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Now two men were leaning over the hood of the car that had cut in front of us. Each was aiming a machine gun at my head. Three other men crouched in the street, pistols drawn. Nobody had identified himself but the operation had FBI written all over it.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Freddie slip quietly out the door. Nobody paid attention. He made it to the sidewalk and disappeared from my sight. In the meantime, the guy with the rifle was

Continued

Hoover's arrival didn't mean everything fell in order. The chaos continued. There were so many

...of your money
...of your money

...of one of Canada's finest
...and through several
...and club
...this renowned
...and Reg
...story next week in Weekend.



Hoover: a fearless lawman?

"Stand on my side," another called.
 "Stand on my side. Don't move."
 "Get on the running board. Hurry up. Move."

I turned and faced a man with a Thompson machine gun. He wore a Palm Beach suit and a Panama hat, and he looked cool and collected. He seemed to be in charge. The gun was steady in his hand, which was more than I could say for the guy standing behind me with the rifle. He kept jabbing me in the back. I had the impression his hands were trembling.

"Karpis, do you have a gun with you?" the man with the machine gun asked calmly.

"No."

"All right, Karpis," he went on, "I'm putting the safety on this gun. There's no need for anyone to get hurt here."

He snapped the safety and I asked him about the guy behind me with the rifle. "Please tell him to put *his* safety on," I said. "He's liable to kill me." The guy with the rifle heard what I said and he was madder than hell.

"Wait till we get you downtown, Karpis," he said. "I'll show you who's running things."

There was a huge crowd around now. A couple of dozen FBI agents and at least 100 spectators. The commotion was terrific. But I could see that some of the men with the guns had turned their attention to something else. They were looking over toward the corner of the building and they were waving their arms.

I heard one guy shouting, "We've got him. We've got him. It's all clear, chief."

A couple of others shouted the same thing. I turned my head in the direction they were looking. Two men came out from behind the apartment. They'd apparently been waiting in the shelter of the building, out of sight, while the guys with the guns had been levelling at Freddie and me.

They began to walk across the lawn and sidewalk toward the crowd. One was slight and blonde. The other was heavy-set with a dark complexion. They wore suits with blue shirts. They walked closer and I recognized the dark heavy man. I'd seen pictures of him. Anyone would have known him. He was J. Edgar Hoover.

Hoover's arrival didn't mean everything fell in order. The chaos continued. There were so many agents, guns and spectators that no one was able to control the mess. Freddie and I stood in the middle of a mob scene.

"Handcuff him," someone called out. "Put the cuffs on Karpis."

Nobody in the crowd of agents had brought handcuffs. The cool guy with the machine gun took off his tie and handed it to another agent, who wrapped

...with Hoover... and man, ... was between ... I hadn't noticed her in ... As for ... I had lost ...

...no time, he pulled the car away from ... and started down Jefferson Parkway.

...the end of the story. There is an ...

The official version of what happened that day in New Orleans is in Don Whitehead's *The FBI Story*, compiled from facts in FBI files, and with a foreword by Hoover himself. The story was that as Hoover and his men approached, I reached for a rifle on the back seat. Hoover opened the door of the car and grabbed me. At the same time, another agent named Connolly reached in from the passenger side and also grabbed me.

Over the years in prison, many people asked me about my arrest. Attorneys general, senators, congressmen — they all wanted to know: Did Hoover really arrest me personally?

I always answered, "Why don't you ask Mr. Hoover?" But now, I think the time has come to set the record straight.

The FBI story of my arrest is totally false. Just as false as the one Hoover put out in 1935 to the effect that I had sent him a note threatening to kill him.

How could Connolly have dived in through the passenger side of the car when Freddie was sitting beside me?

And the rifle in the back seat. What rifle? What back seat? It was a 1936 Plymouth coupe that had no back seat. We had two rifles but they were locked away in the luggage compartment.

But most important of all, Hoover didn't lead the attack on me. He hid until I was covered by many guns. He waited until he was told the coast was clear. Then he came out to reap the glory.

The story of Hoover the Hero is false.

Over my many years in prison — I was eligible for parole after 15 years but they kept me in for 33 — it grated on me that Americans had been gulled into cheering Hoover as one of the country's great men on the basis of his version of my arrest.

That May day in 1936 I made Hoover's reputation as a fearless lawman. It's a reputation he doesn't deserve.

I have nothing but contempt for J. Edgar Hoover.

For the rest, there are no apologies, no regrets, no sorrows, and no animosity. What happened, happened. <

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